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Cuba

Commentary on Dissidents, U.S. Military Links

PA1002152593 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Roberto Morejon commentary]

[Text] The true function of the so-called dissident groups in Cuba has been uncovered once again. The local weekly TRABAJADORES has presented new evidence on the links those groups have with U.S. official institutions.

As these petty groups have no social basis, Cuban media pays little attention to the presence on the island of people who allegedly defend human rights and try to undermine the revolutionary process from within.

For the majority of Cubans it is evident that the true objective of the so-called dissidents is to fulfill the dream of the CIA, the Pentagon, and eight U.S. Administrations, that up to George Bush have done everything possible to drown their Caribbean neighbor.

Nevertheless, the Cuban weekly decided it was wise to present new elements of judgment on the collusion between the so-called domestic opposition and U.S. special services and institutions.

The Cuban weekly analyzed statements made last year by members of the U.S. military high command and concluded that sector views the petty groups that operate in the island as strong provocation elements.

The weekly points out that U.S. military commanders have said at the U.S. Congress the domestic situation in the Caribbean island could become a security problem for the United States.

TRABAJADORES analyzes intriguing speculations by the U.S. high command, which has foretold that there will be an exodus of Cubans as the Cuban economy deteriorates, and describes this exodus as a source of generalized violence and as an eventual threat to the U.S. forces stationed at Guantanamo Naval Base.

As the Cuban weekly sees it, there is no doubt that the idea is to promote illegal departures through that base in spite of its strong security measures. The weekly speculates: To what extent will dissidents be used in activities that could become a provocation to create conditions for an intensification of the campaign about violation of human rights in Cuba and to provide ground for responsive measures of unforeseeable consequences by the United States?

Fidel Castro Delivers Speech at Education 93

FL1002134493 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0254 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Speech by President Fidel Castro at the closing ceremony of the Education 93 conference at the Karl Marx Theater in Havana on 5 February—recorded]

[Text] [Castro] That is the Japanese's worst invention, those little cameras that do not stop flashing for even a second. I noticed this during the opening ceremony. You could not see a thing. Well, it is one of the evils of our era and it seems that the Japanese have been successful in taking the lead over the Americans in the camera market. [applause] Dear Latin American teachers, distinguished guests, compatriots: Fortunately, the theater is big enough, because yesterday no one knew what was going to happen. There was not enough room for the Cubans, due to the high number of Latin American guests and participants. There was not enough room in the theater. It seems that some of the guests went home yesterday, and now there is room for all of us to participate together here in the closing of this event. [applause]

Undoubtedly, I am not the best qualified person to give the closing speech, because I have not participated in the discussions. I always like to participate in these meetings and become familiar with what is being discussed in order to be able to give my opinion and speak of those things that have piqued the interest of all the participants. I have only been able to ask a few questions of the comrades who are the commission chairs. Therefore, I am here to fulfill my duty in consenting to the request of the organizers of the event, and the wish you have expressed in recent days when you wanted me to make an impromptu speech at any cost. I do not want to speak at length, which is not usual. [laughter]

I am aware of the long hours of discussions and the schedule you have followed. Yesterday, I asked and was told that following the morning or midday discussions, you would proceed to the theater early on. I believe many of you are anxious to return to your hotels at last. [Crowd: No!] I also believe that although the weather is cool, you want to take a bath [Crowd: No!] and be done with this excellent event.

I have thought about this event. What happened on the opening day truly caught my attention. Everyone here was amazed by the number of participants. First, they said 3,000, then 3,500, and finally, on that day over 5,000 Latin American participants had registered. [applause] That surprised everyone. This is the biggest theater we have, and there was not enough room here. I was asking myself what is going to happen if we continue at this rate. It does not seem appropriate to hold an educators' meeting in a stadium.

In other words, what has been truly significant is the extraordinary participation. Approximately 2,000 people participated in the first conference in 1986. Approximately 1,500 people participated in the second

one. Approximately 5,200 Latin Americans, without including the Cuban participants, are attending this third conference. [indistinct comment from audience followed by laughter] Well, I have to include the Spanish participants as Latino-Spanish, more or less from the same family. [applause] We really cannot forget the people responsible for the existence of so many Latin Americans. [applause, laughter].

This makes us wonder what the reason is for this. We believe that first of all, it is the result of a feeling of solidarity. We do not believe that we are so deserving as to be worthy of such a high privilege. I believe we are witnessing here the feelings of fraternity and support for Cuba, in coming to Cuba precisely now, at such a special and difficult time. I have also reflected on the educational efforts of the Revolution. I believe a lot has been accomplished in this field over the course of the years. It is not necessary to give you many facts.

We could opt to do what [Luis Ignacio] Gomez did on the first day by explaining that there is a booklet on education in Cuba during the revolutionary period, which contains many facts. I do not know if all of you have this booklet. I believe that it was included in the briefcases, but I understand that in the end there were not enough briefcases for everyone and backpacks were used. Some people preferred the backpacks over the briefcases. They liked them better. [applause]

I think that if there were not enough booklets on Gomez's speech, which I was able to listen to....[pauses] I was not able to listen to [Ricardo] Alarcon's speech, nor [Fernando] Vecino's speech. I asked him how it went. He said very modestly that it went fairly well. [laughter] I believe him. I also believe he is modest. So for now I think it must have been very good. These materials can be printed and mailed, and I guess we will have your addresses at least. It would not be hard to send you copies of the speeches, at least two or three copies of the most important materials. [applause] Among them, I would like to suggest the booklet on the history of the educational process during the revolutionary period.

This morning, thinking of the need to speak this afternoon, I read that 29-page small-print booklet at top speed. For me, reading that history was truly thrilling, because in reality it contains many of the things that happened and many of the experiences we underwent. Perhaps what I found most thrilling was remembering that it all began with the literacy campaign. All that we knew about education at the beginning of the Revolution was that education had to be developed. We had certain ideas about how to accomplish this, but of course, while we were fighting in the Sierra Maestra, we did not even imagine what this whole program was to become later, or the things that emerged along the way. Since the time of the Moncada Barracks attack we had talked about the problem of education as one of the main problems. Everyone in Cuba was aware of that. Life, the battle, the struggle to develop education in Cuba, is what gave rise to the set of programs that were carried out through the years.

I remember that we talked then about school campuses, where [the concept of] a combination of work and study was already present. We thought of large school campuses in every province. In fact, at the beginning of the Revolution, we began building at least the first of those school campuses in what was then called Oriente Province. It was clear that education had to be brought to the mountain regions. The first efforts in education were conducted during the revolutionary war period. The first problem was to move the teachers to the countryside.

There were hundreds of thousands of children and teenagers without teachers in those regions. We were aware of that and had promised the peasants that we would send teachers. This was one of the first things we did. From this came the need to recruit the first teachers, whom we called voluntary teachers, to go to the mountains. But where were we to find so many voluntary teachers? The teachers colleges were in the cities. Living conditions in the mountains, and the countryside in general, were very harsh. Very few people could tolerate those living conditions. One of the first things was the creation of the famous 10,000 classrooms, because there were 10,000 unemployed teachers.

There were 1 million illiterate people out of a population of 6.5 million people. Over half the children did not have schools. The existing public schools had practically no resources. They lacked materials, facilities, everything. There were a few private schools—generally considered good schools—for an insignificant minority of the population. This is how the idea of the literacy campaign arose one day. I truly believe that it became a historic event which could be described as a feat. (?How could we do it?) We made a pledge to eliminate illiteracy in one year. This is the type of pledge that should not be made, but we did it. [words indistinct] and we also fulfilled it. [applause]

It became necessary to mobilize the students, 100,000 students, plus tens of thousands of teachers, a few tens of thousands [words indistinct] some voluntary teachers, and so we had a number of people that totaled almost 170,000. We sent them to live in the houses of the illiterate people, in the mountains, and everywhere. I believe that given the existing illiteracy rate, we became the first country—I believe the only one—to eliminate illiteracy in one year. We truly eliminated illiteracy in one year. [applause]

They were committed to teaching everyone to read and write, including people 80 and 90 years old. They did not want to miss anyone. I believe that at the end they had taught almost 800,000 people during that period. [Words indistinct] served as an example for other efforts to promote literacy with similar measures, mass mobilizations, student mobilizations, and they have had some success. But of course, no one has been able to do it in

one year alone. This could only be done in the midst of a great revolutionary effervescence. It happened that precisely in the middle of the literacy campaign, the Bay of Pigs invasion took place.

Not even the Bay of Pigs invasion was able to interrupt the literacy campaign. After the literacy campaign, when all those young people returned, a plan was organized [words indistinct]. All those young people who participated in the campaign were given the opportunity to study.

At that time there were still only one or two universities. There was not a university in every province, there were no schools, no institutes, no secondary schools. In order for many of those young people to [words indistinct] by using the houses in Havana of the upper bourgeoisie which had emigrated to the United States hoping that the Revolution would only last a few months. Those houses became schools, those houses and other facilities, for more than 100,000 young people.

Many peasants also came. The literacy campaign was followed by a process called a follow-up process. Of course, I am not going to tell you this history. I am simply trying to stress that that was the beginning of it all. By continuing that effort, we arrived at some of the sophisticated things we have today.

The development of our ideas, the will to forge ahead, and the full awareness of the vital importance of education are what have brought us to where we are today. How many solutions was it necessary to find along the way? There was the problem of the [shortage of] teachers. Of course, we made mistakes. The process was not free of setbacks and errors. At the beginning we thought that if the teachers were not taught in the mountains we would never have teachers for [passage indistinct]. We made efforts to create the teachers colleges in the countryside. This was very difficult.

Thousands upon thousands went, but thousands upon thousands also returned. We would have never arrived at the total number of teachers we needed that way. One day, we discovered it was necessary to change the concept and also organize teachers colleges in every city, everywhere. Finally, we were able to develop a large pool for training teachers. The people enrolling in the teachers colleges were sixth-grade students because there were no other students available.

It has to be said that the Revolution, with its many tasks, gave jobs to an enormous number of students. There were thousands of young people who joined the Revolutionary Armed Forces, for example. These forces needed skilled personnel and many people, because the great threats began early on. Many young people also joined many state institutions and administration services. We had an ample pool [words indistinct] to carry out the programs, the education program for every child in Cuba as well as the follow-up program. Our first teachers enrolled in the teachers colleges with a sixth-grade education. Today, they have completed secondary school.

There came a time when the explosion of sixth-grade graduates was so large that there was no place to send them. It became necessary to develop a large program for building schools. We built hundreds of schools. At that time the schools in the field came about [words indistinct] secondary and preuniversity schools, but there were no teachers. It became necessary to improvise teachers. The Manuel Ascunze Contingent was created in memory of a young literacy campaign teacher who was murdered by counterrevolutionary gangs in the Escambray mountains.

We asked for 10th-grade students—they were the first—and then secondary school graduates to be trained as teachers. We could not wait until they became teachers. We turned them into teachers and students. We used the work/study concept. They went to their class and also gave classes. For many years, that was the job of the education contingent. Without that formula we would have never reached the number of teachers needed.

The vast majority of the teachers during that period did not have degrees. There was a time when only 30 percent of the teachers had degrees. Later, we had a problem with preuniversity school teachers but we followed the same procedure. Later on, we had problems with university professors.

We also have to add that imperialism did everything it could to promote the exodus of professionals and leave Cuba without professors and doctors. They opened wide their doors. Many people had dreamed for years of the opportunity of working in a more developed, wealthier country. It was a long-time dream for many people. In this way they took away a large part of the teachers of many schools. They took away many professionals. One of the fields where we were fairly well off in terms of personnel was medicine. We had 6,000 doctors, and they took away 3,000. They left us with only 3,000 doctors. They took away a large number of the medical school professors. This is why we were also forced to wage an intense battle in the public health field in order to have what we have today.

This could give you an idea, without getting into all the details, of how long and difficult the struggle has been to reach what we could call the present conditions, trends, and ideas on education.

There were no universities, only one in Havana and one in Santiago de Cuba, which was fairly new. A couple more were built quickly someplace else before the Revolution, I believe in Camaguey and Holguin. It was not the same situation as we have today.

In the universities we had to improvise professors, pick many of the best students and leave them there as professors at a time when Cuba needed them in production. Because besides the fact that we had few engineers and skilled personnel, some of those we had were also taken away. They went to the United States along with their bosses. We waged a bitter fight against the pressures, the embargo, and the exodus of skilled personnel

in order to reach the levels which Gomez spoke about and which are mentioned in that booklet.

Filling 29 pages with small print means that you have a high number of accomplishments; for example, the special schools, the other schools, technological schools, physical education schools, teachers colleges, teachers' aides schools, childcare center teachers schools, vocational schools, and military vocational schools for those who chose a military career. A set of institutions were developed. There were years when over 100 schools in the field were built; the technological schools for the different branches of the industrial sector, including the sugar industry; the fine arts schools. The program was thorough. It was an integrated program. Unfortunately, we were not able to develop all of it as it was conceived. Countless university facilities were built, to the extent that nowadays we have 47 university centers with an immense number of students and different types of education. There is regular education, training for workers, etcetera.

I mentioned the special schools. We had a program to build all the special schools we needed. Naturally, many of these schools were established at facilities which sometimes did not meet all the requirements. We already had a program to build all the special schools we needed to serve 80,000 students, many of them new schools. In Havana, for example, the 24 special schools needed were built, but construction was also taking place in other parts of the country. [Words indistinct] that was the required enrollment.

You know that these concepts are relative. They can be debated. There are special schools which are unquestionable. There is no way to handle certain problems without these schools. Certain problems can be handled in the regular schools, or there might be other ways. But, in accordance with all the estimates, we needed facilities for 80,000 students. We had reached 60,000. We did not reach 100 percent. We needed to build approximately another 100 schools. Each one of these schools has a prototype. They were especially designed for each function. A school for students with hearing problems is not the same as a school for students with physical handicaps. I have seen several of these schools and I know they have special characteristics. All these different branches of education were developed in this manner.

Now it is shocking to remember that there was only one technological school in Cuba at the triumph of the Revolution. This shows you what colonialism and neocolonialism is—only one technological school. There were six agricultural schools. There was a very small number of teachers colleges in the capitals of the six provinces. It is shocking to remember all that and compare it with what was built later. In the teacher training field, all types of facilities were built. Fortunately, almost all those facilities were built. We still have to complete three of four new facilities. (?We reached) [words indistinct] schools of education in each of the country's 14 provinces. Likewise, schools of medicine were established in each of the country's 14 provinces. In certain provinces, there are several of these schools.

It is truly sad that our whole program, as it was conceived, was not completed. [Words indistinct] preuniversity schools we were building, often to improve existing facilities. The problem was often to provide new facilities for old institutions. We had a program to build practically all new secondary and primary urban schools which did not have suitable, ideal conditions. We had a program to build all the childcare centers needed, and we had the idea that one day, as the country developed, every child would be able to attend a childcare center, not only the children of working mothers.

As I mentioned, a number of special schools were not built, as well as a number of vocational schools which were insufficient because they had inadequate facilities. But in a few more years, if the events that occurred had not taken place, we would have been able to complete that whole program, with the facilities, in its entirety. Of course, what we did was enough to put us in first place among all Third World countries and above several developed countries. [applause] The effort made under those conditions was such that we now have more teachers or teaching personnel per capita than any other [words indistinct] country. [applause]

It is said that in developing countries....[pauses] to call them something. They should be called underdeveloping countries if we keep in mind that the abyss between the developed and undeveloped countries keeps growing. These are not countries which are developing but rather they are underdeveloping, falling further and further behind in their development. It is said that in those countries, the number of students per teacher is 26. That is the average. In some countries it is less, and in others the total number of students per teacher is much higher. It is said that in developed countries the number of students per teacher is 16. In Cuba, the number of students per teacher is 10. [applause]

Another figure is the number of inhabitants per teacher. In Latin America many countries have 100 inhabitants per teacher. The countries with the best rates are the United Stated with 77 inhabitants per teacher, and Canada with 52 inhabitants per teacher. Cuba has 39 inhabitants per teacher. [applause] This is why other figures have improved greatly. For example, we have reached 100- percent enrollment at the primary school level. Few countries have 100-percent enrollment in primary school. There is always a fraction [words indistinct] but in practice it is equivalent to 100 percent at the primary school level. Enrollment in secondary school is over 90 percent. I believe that in Latin America, enrollment is 57 percent. Student retention, which in our hemisphere, in Latin America, is [words indistinct] approximately 50 percent, is over 90 percent in Cuba. [applause]

In Cuba, a child begins receiving care before its birth. Somewhere I read that every pregnant woman receives

15 prenatal checkups before delivery, so that the students are being cared for since they are in their mother's womb. [applause] Naturally, infant mortality was also reduced until we reached the current levels, this year, during the special period. This is truly incredible. Even we ourselves did not think that we could maintain the rate of 10.7 [per 1,000 live births] with the tremendous, enormous difficulties of the special period, but the rate was reduced to 10.2. [applause] We find ourselves, not only in first place among all the Third World countries but also among the top 25 countries in the world. We are getting close to getting under 10. When we will do so is impossible to say in these circumstances, but it is a fact that some provinces have less than 10.

Villa Clara Province, a rural province, has an infant mortality rate of 6.6. This is one of the lowest rates in the world. There are municipalities in the mountains where no infant has died for three or four years, municipalities there in the mountains where before no one even knew the number of children that died [words indistinct] children died while being taken by boat. There were no roads. There were no communications.

The institution of the family doctor has been extended, and we have approximately 18,000 family doctors. I mentioned that there were 6,000 doctors at the start and 3,000 stayed. But with these 3,000 as the seed, the doctor training program was developed, the universities and schools of medicine were developed, in such a way that now we have more than 40,000 doctors. For every doctor taken from us by the Yankees, today we have 14 doctors. [applause]

The prestige of medicine in Cuba is growing to the extent that many people, growing numbers of people, seek medical care in Cuba. Not only children have benefited from the program, but all the people of the country have benefited. Mothers have benefited to the point that infant mortality rates....[corrects himself] Maternal mortality rates are insignificant. I believe it is approximately 3.2 per 10,000 live births. Before, these rates were very high.

Educational efforts have had an impact on all fields because education is everything. Without education, no development can take place. Today our efforts, in the midst of incredibly difficult conditions, are to maintain and improve what we have, with what we have. It is impossible at this time to think of building new schools. Some are being finished, something is fixed or added. The construction of these schools has been stopped. Nevertheless, the rates continue to improve and education continues to improve, thanks to the efforts made through the years which allow us to have almost 300,000 teachers now at the different levels, almost 300,000.

This is not counting the tens and tens of thousands of teachers who are doing something else [words indistinct] at all the institutions, mass organizations, the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC], the Union of Young Communists. State institutions were always looking for teachers for some jobs, since teachers were outstanding for their knowledge and training. This has been a tremendous struggle, competition [words indistinct] the other state organizations (?to get) those teachers, regardless of the number of retirements, although our mass of teachers is primarily young. All the institutions have professors and teachers. Despite this, we have almost 300,000 teachers. I think the exact number is 282,000.

We have a reserve of teachers which allows us to train them in different ongoing education programs. This makes it possible for thousands of teachers to study full time, thanks to this reserve of teachers. This is not a luxury, because the problem of a human society is to organize itself in such a way that all the people can be useful, that all the people can have sufficient training for useful work, because the key to everything, more than money, more than material resources, is human resources. [applause]

What would become of these almost 300,000 teachers without these educational programs? Could we have 140,000 teachers, and half of these teachers could be at home, or being housewives, or doing other things? That is what happens in the world. Tens of thousands hundreds of thousands of people do nothing because they do not have the training to do anything, nor the will to do something. They live like sheep, and those who should be concerned about them do not do anything or care.

The problem of a society, as we see it, with our concepts, our revolutionary and socialist concepts, is that people have the right to organize themselves in a rational way, because if even ants are capable of rational organization, and even bees are capable of rational organization, why not human beings, the most extraordinary of nature's creations, the only being provided with true intelligence? Are not human beings capable of being organized in a rational way? Can a society with hundreds of thousands of unemployed people be considered rational? There are billions [of unemployed] in the world. In superdeveloped Europe, there are tens of millions. In the United States, I do not know how many millions of unemployed there are, 7 or 7.5 percent.

The underemployed must be added to this. Those who have jobs that do not produce anything must be added to this. Capitalism has been unable to create a rational society. It creates a society full of contradictions and absurdities, full of paradoxes. It has created a society which depletes everything, natural resources but especially human resources, a society that alienates everything. What we have obtained in education, health, and many other fields shows what a society that tries to organize itself in a rational way can do.

But without this rationality, without this rational organization, no country in the world could have resisted what our country is resisting today. [applause] In the midst of the chaos of capitalism, it would have been absolutely impossible. How can we explain how a country that has lost 75 percent of its imports, a country

that must work with 40 percent of the fuel that it had, and all as a consequence of the disappearance of the socialist bloc and the disintegration of the USSR—countries with which we had 85 percent of our trade and which gave us fair prices for our products—how is it possible, given these terrible blows our country's economy has suffered, that not a single school has closed? [applause] Not a single student has been left without a teacher. There are teachers who are on sabbatical. [applause] There are thousands of teachers who are improving their qualifications, because we have the personnel, and in any case they would have to be clothed and fed, and would have to breathe and absorb a little of the solar energy that reaches us every day. This is something that is possible solely because of the rationalization of our society.

How is it possible that in these conditions not a single hospital has been closed, and not a single sick person has been left without medical care? How is it possible that not a single doctor has been left without a job? How is it possible that every teacher that graduates has a guaranteed job? [applause] That every doctor and engineer has a guaranteed job? That every mid-level technician has a job or economic aid? Economic aid, because when the lack of raw materials and other resources, the lack of energy, and the lack of fuel prevent us from doing those economic activities in which we can employ these citizens, they are not abandoned. They are not left without the support of society. They are not left without a contribution from society.

Although we do not have a lot to go around, at least we divide what we have in an equitable and humane manner. [applause] Could any of this been possible with any other concept of society? And now I ask myself why they want to destroy it? Why does the United States want to destroy the Cuban Revolution, which has obtained these very humane achievements, when we know what goes on in the world. We know what has happened in many countries, the reality, the terrible reality, the truth, not the lies which so many use and so many abuse against our country to try to deny the merits of our revolution, [applause] the extraordinarily humanistic spirit of our revolution. Why?

The director of UNICEF has told me that if Cuba's health parameters existed in Latin America, for example, 750,000 children would be saved every year. This means that imperialism and capitalism are murdering 750,000 children in this hemisphere every year. [applause] I am not talking about those who have no schools, those who walk the streets cleaning windshields, the homeless, those who walk the streets eating fire so that people will give them money. Not to mention those who are victims of the death squads. [applause]

I am talking about those who are killed every year simply because minimal health services do not exist. I am talking about those less than one year old who are killed. I am not even talking about the ones who are killed who are older than one, from one to four and five to 14 years old. I am not talking about those who are killed at any age, among so many people in this hemisphere and in the Third World who do not have medical care. I am not talking about those who are killed in the United States itself, because everyone knows that when those great cold waves come, hundreds and thousands of old people who do not have anywhere to take shelter freeze to death.

According to basic calculations, in these years of the Revolution, our country has saved the lives of more than 400,000 children who would have died without the Revolution. They would have died without the health rates the Revolution has. The Revolution's health programs have saved 400,000 children. Not to mention the children who have received an education under the Revolution. Not to mention the educational level of our people. Not to mention the fact that illiteracy is something that is not even talked about here. It is a word that is used here only when recalling the past.

Imperialism wants to make the country that has reduced infant morality to 10.2, the country that has reduced illiteracy to zero, the country that has reduced the primary school drop-out rate to zero, the country that has reduced the drop-out rate among secondary school students to a very small percentage, disappear from the face of the earth. Imperialism wants to annihilate the country that has the most teachers per capita and the most doctors per capita. Why does imperialism want to destroy the example of the Cuban Revolution? Why not end those inhumane and merciless systems that the vast majority of the human race are suffering from, especially the peoples of the Third World?

Why do they not annihilate that criminal system called neoconservativism? [applause] Why do they not annihilate those institutions that are trying to privatize everything, from schools to streets and parks? [applause] Why do they not annihilate those institutions that demand that education, health, and social security budgets disappear? [applause] They want to annihilate a concept, system, and society that is the opposite of all that. Why do they want to strangle it? Why do they want to smother it? To create what in the world? To offer what to the world?

We have these convictions, and that is why we defend them with such determination and steadfastness. We know these truths, we know what the other system means, and we do not want to be the others. We are willing to pay whatever price is required. [applause]

This event has coincided with an extremely important electoral process in our country. To be exact, in a few weeks the elections will take place, with the direct and secret election of the delegates to the provincial assemblies and the deputies to the National Assembly, which is the highest governing body of the state. However, you have not seen the streets of this city full of placards, posters, and advertising of all kinds. You have not seen that war, that struggle, that fierce fight. If you visit the neighborhoods, you will see the candidates for deputy

working together, campaigning together, visiting the schools, institutions, and workplaces together, meeting, discussing, and talking with people.

This is because of a principle we have applied in our country, because we had no reason to copy the inventions of imperialism, of the looting and exploiting societies. We had no reason to copy from those who invented colonialism, those who were responsible for slavery, neocolonialism, and neoconservativism.

We have no reason to copy them. Some who have tried to copy them have become messed up. They have been fragmented into a thousand pieces. Who knows if they will ever be again what they once were. [applause] They want to sweep us from the face of the earth because we are resisting, because we refuse to put on that yoke, because we refuse to stop being what we are, even if we have to struggle under very difficult conditions. They talk about democracy, and it would be worthwhile for them to think about what we are doing, and what elections are like in our country, and how we have been perfecting our ideas.

They are ours. We do not want to say that our prescription should be the same for everyone or be used by everyone. We do not make those claims. There are many things the Revolution has done that we know other countries are beginning to do. Other countries would like to do them but cannot. There is the work/study concept, the application of that principle of Marx and Marti. We cannot forget Marx. It was not only Marti. Who can feel more love for Marti than we Cubans? [applause] But Marx and Marti both stated the principle of work/study, starting with those analyses Engels had made of English society where they forced children of 7, 8, or 10 to work. That pitiless society had discovered that children were producers, potential producers, as has been known and discovered throughout the world, where children of 8, 9 or 10 have to work to earn a living.

They discovered that work could be a great educational tool, that the problem was not the physical and mental effort a teenager had to make, but rather the reasons this physical and mental effort was imposed on those teenagers under pitiless conditions. The application of the work/study principle of Marx and Marti is something that in my opinion was a creation of the Cuban Revolution. Its application was also elaborated on, because those ideas had been talked about, but it was necessary to put them into practice. The Cuban Revolution elaborated on the ideas in order to put that principle into practice.

There are other things, like the family doctor, the Cuban concept of the family doctor, which is tending to spread. But I do not claim for that reason that whatever we do in the political sphere is a universal remedy or panacea. I know that it is our remedy, and we are very satisfied with our remedy. I know that it is not easy to apply it, because to apply it, it is first necessary to have a very profound revolution. It is not easy to have profound revolutions. [applause]

We have established the principle that the people nominate and the people elect. It is not the party, it is not our party that nominates. Nor does our party elect. It is the mass organizations and the people that nominate. The district delegates are nominated by the people who are organized into assemblies, with no intervention by the party. That is where the district delegates come from, and they are the ones who make up the municipal assemblies of the people's government. But they are also the ones who nominate the candidates for the provincial assemblies and for deputies of the National Assembly. This is with the participation of the mass organizations, attended by the workers, the workers, [repeats] the farmers, the women, the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution, and the students.

They are the ones who make up the candidacy commissions and nominate the candidates. It is not the party that does this. They are the ones who present the candidates to the municipal assemblies. This is why a simple, humble, ordinary man can be a National Assembly deputy. He does not have to be a millionaire. His background, life, and merits are known, and that is what counts. Most of the members of the National Assembly are deputies from the base level. Up to 50 percent are delegates from the base level. To be elected as delegates to the provincial assemblies or deputies to the National Assembly, they need 50 percent plus one of the valid votes.

We are involved in this process right now, leading up to the elections on 24 February. Compare this process, these procedures and methods of ours with what happens elsewhere. Where do the workers nominate candidates? Where do the students, farmers, women, and neighborhood residents nominate and elect candidates? We are proud of these procedures. We are also proud that in the midst of such a difficult situation, in the midst of a period [words indistinct] we are undertaking the test of these elections, which assume that the Revolution has the full and open support of the majority of the people. [applause]

The Revolution has not only the support of the majority of the people; it also has the best of the people. It has not only quantity but quality. [applause] All these tasks we are involved in at a time when the socialist bloc has disappeared and a unipolar world has been created, the United States [words indistinct] and is trying to make the Cuban Revolution disappear from the face of the earth. We receive many messages from many parts of the world which can be summarized in one word: Resist! Resist! Resist! [applause]

That is why we are moved by your declaration, your solidarity, and your idea of collecting notebooks and pencils so that our educational program will not come to a halt. We will do everything possible so that not a single

school will be closed, so that the children will have something to write on, even if it is only cardboard, and will have study materials. [applause] But we are encouraged [words indistinct] this noble effort [words indistinct] represent not the rich people, but the poor or low-income people of Latin America. You have had to come here by making great personal sacrifices, especially when the distances are long and one must pay $1,000 for a round-trip plane ticket, or more than $1,000. Some must pay more, others less, depending on the distance. But all have the same merit and the same good will. [applause]

We are moved when we think that our children are going to study with these pencils and notebooks. But we see above all the moral value this has. That is the important, fundamental thing. The battle against the embargo is a political battle, difficult and tough, because those who organized and created the embargo wove that tangle well, and they wound it around like a Gordian knot. It is very difficult to undo. UN resolutions are not enough. We must wage a political battle worldwide to defeat the embargo, which today is 100 times crueler because before, when the socialist bloc and the USSR existed, we traded with those countries. We sent our products there and we received fair prices. We imported goods. We had fuel. We had food.

In 1960, at the beginning of the Revolution, when the Yankee embargo started, one could buy eight tons of oil for one ton of sugar. With the USSR, because of the trade agreements that were reached over the years, if the price of oil rose, the price of sugar also rose. We could buy seven tons of oil for one ton of sugar. I want to tell you that today, one can buy only 1.4 tons of oil for one ton of sugar. Sugar is difficult to produce, because it must be planted, cultivated, cut, transported, milled, and loaded onto ships. The effort of hundreds and hundreds of thousands of men is necessary. It is almost as if what our country is consuming in the plants or factories is sugar, because you can buy only 1.4 tons of oil for one ton of sugar.

I say this so that you will have an idea of the kind of difficulties we have to cope with. Of course, we are seeking new channels, we are seeking new formulas, but we have the implacable, systematic, merciless, intensified Yankee embargo in front of us, and we do not now have that trade and those advantages we had in our economic relations with the socialist bloc and the USSR. That is why the embargo is doing much more harm to us now, incomparably more harm. In addition, the pressures are terrible against all those who trade with us, or want to trade with us, or want to invest something in Cuba, or want to carry out some trade deal with Cuba.

That is why, Latin American comrades, the embargo is much harsher now, because of these special conditions that arose when the socialist bloc disappeared. Even so, we are willing to fight. We are willing to resist. We are willing to wait however long we have to—because the world cannot continue as it is, nor will it continue as it is. The peoples cannot resign themselves to having the world continue as it is, and you are not going to resign yourselves to having the world continue as it is. [applause]

Teachers are not going to resign themselves to having the world continue as it is. Your presence here shows this, this massive attendance, this extraordinary number of more than 5,000 participants in this event from Latin America and Spain. [applause] These trends will have to be reversed, and they will be reversed, but it is a lengthy, tough, difficult battle, a political battle in which you have ideas about what should be done and how it should be done, how to organize and how to work to make the world's pressure felt against that monstrous crime that is the imperialist embargo against Cuba.

For our part, we will do our duty. We will do our duty to work above all for the friendship and unity of the Latin American peoples. We wish that the Latin American governments—and I say this here very frankly—had the same awareness you have about Latin American unity and integration. [applause] I ask myself: How many translators have been needed here? How many translators have been needed so that we could communicate with each others? What would happen if instead of being a meeting of Latin Americans, this was a meeting of Europeans? For each delegate there would be at least four interpreters, so that they could understand [words indistinct] try to unite to do something, to be able to live and survive, to face the future.

Can these peoples—about whose future men like Bolivar, Marti, Morelos, Juarez, San Martin, O'Higgins, and so many other important people in our history dreamed—continue as they are, fragmented, in pieces, trampled on by those giants with seven-league boots that Marti spoke of and we recall today? What will our fate, our future be? I was very sad—and I say this very frankly—that at the Madrid summit the name of Bolivar mentioned not one single time. [applause]

(?I can) do so in the name of Cuba, remember those who fought against the conquest and remember those who fought for independence. Perhaps I said outdated words. Perhaps I said inappropriate words. But it is time to talk about Bolivar. It is time to talk about Marti. It is time to talk about those who really dreamed about dignified nations and dignified destinies for each of us. Almost 200 years have gone by since the wars for independence began in this hemisphere, and what are we? Where are we going?

I ask, as I asked in Madrid, are they going to discover us again, conquer us again, [applause] and enslave us again. Because there were a lot of statements in defense of the 500th anniversary of that famous discovery, and not a single word about the millions who die every year from disease and hunger. There was not a single word about the suffering of hundreds of millions of inhabitants of this hemisphere, the uncertainty in which they live, the suffering in which they live. There was not a single word about the tens of millions of men and women who were

exterminated by the conquistadors. If we do not condemn that, if we do not remember that, the fate that awaits us will be that within another 500 years, there will be still more celebrations occasioned by the crimes and violations committed against us, occasioned by the conquests, slavery, and exploitation accomplished at our cost.

You who are teachers know this, you who try to teach children and teenagers the truth know this. You know this better than anyone else. You who try to inculcate patriotism know this. You who try to inculcate values of social justice and solidarity know this. Because without these values, we will be nothing. We will be nobody. Or worse, we will be something. We will be eternally exploited. We will be eternally enslaved. [applause]

That is why we hope for so much from you, and we are happy that this teachers' movement is multiplying, as the movement of doctors and many other professionals who have a similar awareness of these problems is multiplying. That is why I would like to express our deepest gratitude for your having kept Cuba in mind, for your having remembered Cuba, for your having had faith in Cuba, for your having come to Cuba. [applause]

I consider that an institution, a movement, has been created with these meetings of teachers. It was thought at first that they should be held every four years, then it was decided to hold them every three years. I agree with the proposal by [name indistinct] that we should hold these meetings every two years. [applause] If we do not fit into this theater, we will think something up—other places, other things, we will divide up into many groups, but we will hold our meeting.

Let me therefore take leave of you with those unforgettable words of Che [Guevara], expecting to see you again soon: Onward toward victory always!

Castro Begins 3d Day of Touring Santiago de Cuba

FL1002220493 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2032 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, the first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, today visited the new hospital in Santiago de Cuba, on the third day of his tour of that city. Within the framework of the electoral process, Castro, who is also the president of the Councils of State and Ministers, is carrying out an extensive schedule of meetings with the residents of Santiago, who nominated him as a candidate for deputy of the Cuban legislature. At Santiago's modern hospital, Fidel was given an explanation of the medical services the hospital offers the public. He also visited the nuclear magnetic resonance laboratory.

The commander in chief is continuing his tour of centers of economic, scientific, and social interest in Santiago de Cuba. On 10 February, he visited 11 places in the settlements of Boniato and El Cobre, in the district for which he was chosen to be a candidate for deputy.

Government Silent on Defection of Former Major

PA1002150193 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0057 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Havana, 9 Feb (NOTIMEX)—The Cuban Government has remained silent about the defection of Pedro Delgado Lugo, a former Air Force major, who asked the U.S. immigration authorities for political asylum on 7 February.

Foreign Ministry spokesmen declined to talk to NOTIMEX about the former officer's defection, and the news media simply avoided any reference to it.

Delgado Lugo is the third Air Force officer to ask the United States for political asylum in the past three years. The previous incident involved former pilot Orestes Lorenzo Perez.

Pedro Delgado Lugo stated in Miami, Florida, that he is an aeronautics engineer who served in the Armed Forces until 1983 and he was a member of the island's Civil Aviation security services.

The former major entered the United States illegally through Mexico. He had been visiting Mexico as a tourist since 20 December. [passage omitted]

Independent Union Reports Leader Arrested 5 Feb

PA1102045093 Paris AFP in Spanish 2310 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Havana, 10 Feb (AFP)—The Executive Committee of the Cuban Workers Trade Union (USTC), an independent, unofficial organization, announced on 10 February that USTC leader Rafael Gutierrez Santos was arrested over the weekend of 5 February in Havana.

In a communique the USTC calls on international labor organizations to seek the release of Gutierrez Santos, who on 11 February was still being held by the political police in Havana and who has not been allowed to see his relatives, according to a union member.

The USTC, which did not report how many members it has, started at the beginning of 1992 after breaking off from another illegal labor union, the General Union of Cuban Workers (UGTC), which was led by Gutierrez Santos.

Hidalgo on Election to UN Special Committees

FL1102025293 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0202 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] The special committee of the UN General Assembly responsible for decolonization affairs has elected Cuba as one of its vice presidents [words indistinct]. Cuban UN Permanent Representative Alcibiades Hidalgo described the election as recognition of Cuba's

commitment to the elimination of colonialism since that issue was included in 1960 as one of the organization's priorities. In a meeting of the committee chaired by UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali, Hidalgo stated that the present decade has been designated by the United Nations as the (?time to end) colonialism, and said that there is still a considerable amount of work to be done. This week Cuba was also reelected vice president of the General Assembly committee responsible for safeguarding the exercise of the Palestinian people's rights, which are being violated by the Israeli Government.

Jordan Comments on Provincial Seminar in Las Tunas

FL1002001393 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2055 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Alfredo Jordan, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba in Las Tunas Province, has described as very useful the provincial seminar held in Majibacoa Municipality for the 73 presidents of the province's people's councils. Jordan, who is also a Politburo member, urged these people's government bodies to work for the growth of the food program, particularly in tubers, grains, and vegetables.

Jordan also said the people's councils should work harder to reduce infant mortality and raise sports and cultural indicators, as well as increase the number of articles in high demand available.

Also, Ulises Espinosa reports that Las Tunas will increase the number of telephone lines it has by another 1,000, and that the transmitters for Radio Rebelde and Radio Progreso and for magnetoelectric dialing will be installed at sites of social and economic interest.

Government To Accept Bids for Oil Exploration

PA1002220193 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1300 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] On 10 February, Cuba will begin accepting international bids in an effort to promote foreign investments in the oil sector, official sources reported in Ottawa.

Jesus Perez Othon, first deputy basic industry minister, said the purpose of the first round of bids, which will be held in Calgary, Canada on 10 February, is to attract specialized companies into areas of exploration and exploitation in the Cuban hydrocarbon industry.

In the current bidding process, which will also include London on 17 February, 11 tracts [bloques] will be submitted for the investors' consideration, three of them at sea, seven on land, and one on both land and sea. Geological information on the different areas of Cuban territory will also be provided.

In the last three years, various oil companies have signed contracts with the Cuban Government, including companies from Canada, France, and Sweden.

Roundup of Economic Activity Reported 5 - 9 Feb

FL1102005793

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of fileworthy reports on economic developments in Cuba carried on Havana radio and television in Spanish between 5 February and 9 February.

The tobacco harvest has begun in Sancti Spiritus Province. There is continued planting with 490 of 680 planned caballerias planted so far by small farming, cooperative, and state sectors who are making a special effort with cultivation to make up for problems. [Radio Rebelde 1800 GMT 5 Feb]

The Habana Tourist Enterprise has won an award for outstanding work in the collection of hard currency and for surpassing its 1992 plan. In 1992, the enterprise complied 103.8 percent with its plan and also generated over $97,000 in hard currency from tips. It is further reported that the cooperative and small farming sectors will plant close to 2,000 caballerias of cane during the 1993 spring season, as part of the National Association of Small Farmers' plan to expand cane production. The Sugar Industry Ministry's cooperative and small farming sectors have held their national meeting in Cienfuegos, where it was reported that the amount of land scheduled to be weeded by hand is close to 23,000 caballerias. Cooperative and small farming sectors leaders from all provinces are analyzing the states of the planting, weeding by hand, and fertilizing with national resources, with a view to cane recovery. [Radio Reloj 2030 GMT 5 Feb]

The Diez de Octubre Agricultural-Livestock Cooperative in Sancti Spiritus Province is the first to finish tobacco planting in Cabaiguan Municipality. This municipality is decisive for the province's tobacco program, since approximately half of the 680 caballerias scheduled to be planted this year are found there. It is further reported that the Los Palacios Agroindustrial Complex exceeded its tomato delivery quota in January. One hundred sixteen caballerias of tomatoes at the complex were considerably affected by an average rainfall of 200 mm in January. Nevertheless, workers did not give up and will get the maximum results at harvest time. Results in the remaining 200 caballerias planted appear to be very favorable, thanks to the intense cultivation being given the crops, the massive application of chemical products to control disease, and the drainage work done to eliminate flooding. The cumulative production figure at the end January was 152,284 quintals of tomatoes. This means an average yield of 4,500 quintals per caballeria. Most of this production has been earmarked for consumption, fresh, by the people of Havana City and Pinar del Rio. [Cuba Vision Network 2320 GMT 5 Feb] More than 400 km of electricity lines were installed throughout the country in 1992 to serve various productive sectors and provide electricity to approximately 45,000 more housing units. Seventy six km of 110,000 volt lines were installed and an emergency power plant for the Varadero area was completed. In Ciego de Avila

Province 77 percent of the gasoline and 42 percent of diesel consumed is magnetized, which saved more than 1 million pesos in 1992. Water magnetizers are being assembled at agricultural enterprises. [Radio Progreso 1100 GMT 6 Feb] Agriculture Ministry's enterprises in Holguin Province have seeded bodies of water with over 500,000 fry, to produce fish for use in workers cafeterias. In 1992, 24 tons of fish were caught in the 11 mini-resevoirs used for fish farming with a view to self-sufficiency. Also as part of the self-sufficiency program over 300 tons of other kinds of meat were produced by the Holguin agricultural-livestock sector. The workers cafeterias also received over 235,000 quintals of agricultural produce. The local industries of San Cristobal Municipality increased production by artisans in Pinar del Rio Province by 4 percent in 1992 compared to 1991. Also, Farm No. 2 of the Consolacion del Sur Tobacco Enterprise is the first in the province to finish its planting, and has planted 29 caballerias of tobacco. [Radio Reloj 2030 GMT 8 Feb]

Minister of the Steelworking Industry Ignacio Gonzalez Planas has dedicated the Frioclima Enterprise, a Cuban-Spanish joint venture employing 39 line workers. The enterprise produces and markets equipment, parts, and components for refrigeration, air conditioning, and ventilation. The Spaniards are providing technical guidance, but the management is entirely Cuban. Investment and profits are divided 50-50. [Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision 0100 GMT 9 Feb] The members of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution in Las Tunas Province have recycled 21 metric tons of scrap aluminum, thereby becoming the first such group to fulfill its goal for the year in the recovery of this raw material. This figure is 1 ton more than the pledge made for the year's work, which began in September 1992; and saves the nation over $47,000. [Radio Reloj 2030 GMT 9 Feb]

Iranian Envoy on Ties, Foreign Minister Visit

FL1002222993 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2049 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Dr. 'Alireza Deyhim, the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran, has stated at a news conference this morning that his country wishes to intensify bilateral relations with Cuba. The ambassador met with journalists in Havana on the occasion of the 14th anniversary of the 11 February Islamic Revolution, which shortened the gap between wealth and poverty through a program to benefit the masses which included improvements in education and health care.

The ambassador stressed that in spite of eight years of war with Iraq, the Islamic Revolution began a five-year plan in 1989 with goals that they hope to exceed even further during the plan which begins next year. He described relations between Tehran and Havana as excellent and announced an upcoming official visit by the Iranian foreign minister and the study of new cooperation agreements in several spheres.

South African Communist Party Delegation Begins Visit

FL0902031993 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Chris Hani, the secretary general of the South African Communist Party, arrived today in Cuba leading a delegation of that organization. Hani is on a five-day official visit at the invitation of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, the first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba. When he arrived in Havana, Hani stated that his presence is a demonstration of solidarity and friendship with the Cuban people, who have made such an important contribution to the independence process of the African continent.

Meets With ANPP President Escalona

FL1002203593 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Juan Escalona Reguera, the president of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], and the delegation of the South African Communist Party [SACP] that has traveled to Cuba by invitation of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro held a meeting today in Havana. During the meeting, SACP Secretary General Mr. Chris Hani, who is heading the delegation, stressed the struggle that is taking place in his country and the efforts the SACP and the ANC [African National Congress] are making in favor of the rights of the black majority. He also spoke of the activities carried out in Havana since their arrival on 8 February.

[Begin Hani recording, in English] Already we have held important meetings with members of the Politburo and Central Committee dealing with party building, building of structure. We have had meetings with the International Department of the party direction dealing with the strategy of socialism and leftist parties in Latin America. Because the task of uniting the leftist forces in Latin America in the struggle against imperialism is a struggle where the South is trying to overcome the legacies of domination by the North. That struggle of consolidating the forces of democracy and socialism in Latin America and the Caribbean is a very important lesson for the African continent and for us the South Africans in particular. [end recording]

The SACP delegation also learned of the electoral process that is being carried out in our country.

Zambian President Meets With Vice Foreign Minister

FL0802192793 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] Zambian President Frederick Chiluba has met with Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Fernando Remirez and the delegation which Remirez heads. The president expressed interest in strengthening bilateral relations and praised Cuba's medical cooperation.

Castro Sends Message of Appreciation To Zimbabwe

FL1002172693 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1502 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro sent a message of appreciation to Zimbabwe for the solidarity support of that African nation in international organizations. Vice Foreign Minister Fernando Ramirez delivered this message to Zimbabwean Acting President Simon Musenda during an official visit.

At the meeting, the Zimbabwean leader praised Cuba's position in defending its own independence and that of the rest of the Third World. Musenda conversed with the Cuban visitor on bilateral relations, as well as on the development of the South-South cooperation agreements. During the previous days, the Cuban delegation had met with the Zimbabwean ministers of health and information. The main topics discussed at both meetings were Cuban medical assistance to the African nation and Zimbabwean solidarity with Cuba.

Haiti

Aristide Commission Favors Government of 'Concord'

FL1002193193 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] The commission appointed by the ousted president to help find a negotiated solution to the crisis has advocated, on 9 February, a new beginning within the scope of a government of openness and national concord. The commission, during a news conference, pointed out in a 24-page document that it was in the interest of the political power and the incoming government to reconcile the nation with itself. The commission's document specifies that such objectives require that the legitimate power open itself to ease tension, persuade, and reassure all sectors of the nation and to clearly mark the beginning of democratic action through an integration of political parties. The commission also emphasizes that a possible open government of national accord will take all necessary measures to guarantee citizens' liberties and respect for human rights.

Conditions for Mission Include Sovereignty

FL1002191493 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] The text of the new agreement announced on 9 February in Port-au-Prince regarding the conditions for sending an international civilian mission into the country explicitly refers for the first time to national sovereignty.

This text, a copy of which was sent to the press by the government of Prime Minister Marc Bazin, indicates in its first paragraph that the mission—I am quoting—will carry out its mandate with respect for the Haitian Constitution and within the scope of Haitian sovereignty. The new text also stipulates in paragraph 5 that the mission is committing itself to maintaining, on all occasions, an unbiased attitude, of objectivity and respect toward the Haitian people, as well as to prohibiting its members from participating in or associating themselves with political demonstrations on Haitian territory, although they may observe them, unquote.

These two paragraphs, as well as the reference to the framework of national sovereignty, were not mentioned under the original conditions submitted by the OAS and the UN to Mr. Bazin's government, which had rejected it on behalf of national sovereignty.

Also contrary to the initial conditions, the new text does not refer to the authority of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

De Ronceray Criticizes Bazin Acceptance of Mission

FL1002213493 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] The sending of an international civilian mission as the first step in solving the political crisis is denounced by Hubert de Ronceray, leader of the Mobilization for National Development [MDN]. De Ronceray denounces Marc Bazin's decision to accept the arrival of this international mission. For De Ronceray, the Haitian prime minister has neither the status nor the mandate to sign any sort of agreement. The MDN terms this decision by Marc Bazin as illegal and insane. It argues that it is a measure aimed at signing away the national sovereignty. Hubert de Ronceray is calling on Provisional President Joseph Nerette to dismiss the prime minister.

[Begin De Ronceray recording] Marc L. Bazin has announced on the radio that he has signed an agreement with the OAS and the United Nations for the sending of an international civilian mission to Haiti. In order to justify his decision, Mr. Bazin claims himself an issuance from the Villa d'Accueil Tripartite Agreement on 8 May 1992.

The MDN wants to remind the Haitian people that such an agreement that was to be a political compromise for a solution to the crisis was violated the day after its signing not only by the parliament but also by Marc Bazin who betrayed the spirit of consensus and deliberately and unilaterally distorted the notion of negotiation in the significance of the return to power of Jean-Bertrand Aristide. In order to sanction Mr. Bazin's misdeeds, the parliament has three times refused to meet in national assembly and several senators finally gave him a vote of censure.

Marc L. Bazin does not have either the status or the mandate to sign international agreements which fall within the exclusive ability of the president of the Republic. According to Article 139 of the Constitution,

the president of the Republic negotiates and signs all international treaties and agreements and submits them for the ratification of the National Assembly. The MDN is denouncing and condemning the insane, illegal, and arbitrary decision by Marc Louis Bazin to sign away the national sovereignty.

The MDN is asking the Haitian people to consider the OAS/UN, Bazin agreement as null and unacceptable. The MDN is asking the provisional constitutional president of the Republic to dismiss Marc Louis Bazin from his post as prime minister. [end recording]

Deputy Brutus Sees Mission as 'Positive Step'

FL1002215593 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Deputy Duly Brutus sees in this agreement a positive step toward a solution to the Haitian crisis. He asserts that the parliament could come to a decision on a global aspect.

[Begin Brutus recording] As for us in the Nationalistic and Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti [Panpra], we have said it from the beginning. Since 30 September 1991, we have always wished a negotiated solution to the crisis. We think that as far as the civilian mission is concerned, this file has developed positively. Of course, there was the proposal made by Dante Caputo, which, in our opinion, was not acceptable for a simple reason: the national sovereignty was not respected. This was the position expressed by all Haitian sectors that asked that the Haitian Government make some proposals. Therefore, what we have noticed, according to the information that I have, is that efforts were made in that sense and we think that, according to the specific information that I received, the United Nations has agreed to do all that is possible to respect, in this document, the national sovereignty. Therefore, we think it is a positive step.

Must this document go to the Haitian parliament? An agreement was found in the sense that since there will be a global element, it is necessary to consider the problem of the arrival of a civilian mission but also the question of a global resolution of the crisis. Therefore, we are now going to have discussions in parliament in order to find out if we must come to a decision right away on this document or if we must wait for a global position. [end recording]

'Constitutionalist' Bloc Seeks Solidarity

FL1002185193 Port-au-Prince LE NOUVELLISTE in French No 34.477, 9 Feb 93 p 3

[Text] The "constitutionalist" assembly addresses the legislators of the world. In a letter dated 4 February, addressed to the legislators of the entire world, the 13 "constitutionalist" senators are sending, quote, a vibrant call for international parliamentary solidarity, unquote, and are asking their colleagues of the world to join them in denouncing the validation session of 31 January, quote, of nine persons elected in the illegal and unconstitutional partial elections of 18 January 1993, unquote. This session was held, states the letter, quote, by a group of eight senators, members of the minority bloc called "Alliance for Parliamentary Cohesion," having as leaders Senators Julio Larosiliere, Ebrane Cadet, and Judnel Jean, respectively, who along with the quaestor [financial officer in parliament] and the first and second secretaries of the dismissed office, gathered outside the Senate session room, in violation of the Haitian Constitution and of the Senate internal rules, unquote.

Finance Minister Takes Over Tower Merchant Bank

FL0902192193 Bridgetown CANA in English 1454 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 9, CANA—Jamaica's finance minister, Hugh Small, Monday took control of Tower Merchant Bank and put in place an independent manager following growing concerns over the bank's finances.

"The minister has put in Brian Young, a senior partner of Price Waterhouse to undertake the day-to-day management of Tower," a Central Bank Official told CANA.

Small, using powers under a new Financial Institutions Act, approved last December, made his move following the (Central) Bank of Jamaica's (BOJ) publication of the quarterly assets and liabilities statement for the island's near-banks for the period up to last September.

The Central Bank did not publish Tower's figures saying that certain aspects of its data were "in need of clarification and reconciliation".

"It would therefore not be fair to publish their data in an uncertain state," the BOJ said.

"Problems with Tower's statements actually delayed the publication of the report on the near banks," a Finance source told CANA. "In fact, the Central Bank has had difficulty getting information from Tower."

According to the Central Bank's previous quarterly report at the end of June 1992, Tower's assets matched its liabilities at just over Ja29 million dollars (one Ja dollar approx 4.5 U.S. cents).

However, Finance sources said it has been clear for a long time that Tower was in trouble and that the Finance Minister was having talks with its principals prior to making his move.

"These steps by Mr. Small are aimed at ensuring that the operations of the bank are conducted in a sound manner in the interest of its depositors and the community in general," an offical statement said.

It is the second near bank to have fallen in serious trouble here since the the mid 1980s.

In 1987 the Central Bank wound up Jamincorp saying that its assets exceeded its liabilities, a claim that was vehemently denied by the bank.

Another near bank, Blaise Trust and Merchant Bank, while not having the extreme action meted out to Tower, last year came under the srutiny of the BOJ after sister companies to which it made heavy loans racked up big losses.

Jamaica

Central Bank Suspends Foreign Exchange Agents

FL0902215793 Bridgetown CANA in English 2127 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 9, CANA—Jamaica's Central Bank has suspended its roving foreign exchange agents amidst charges of irregularities in the operation of the controversial system. The issue could hold serious implications for the future of (Central) Bank of Jamaica governor, Roderick Rainford, who declared last October that he would step down if it was proved that the bank had bought foreign exchange at higher than the quoted rate.

According to a Central Bank statement, it was concerned that "one or more of its authorised agents might have been acting in breach of the agreed guidelines established in relation to the operation of the scheme." Further, the Central Bank said, unauthorised persons have been posing as its agents to prospective sellers of foreign exchange.

The Central Bank appointed agents to purchase foreign exchange on its behalf following the government's liberalisation of the foreign exchange market in September 1991, allowing commercial banks to trade on their own account. But the system has from the start come in for attack from some quarters with critics charging that the Central Bank should not compete in the market place with other purchasers of foreign exchange.

More recently opposition leader Edward Seaga charged that Central Bank agents were paying rates higher than the quoted rate of J22.20 dollars to 1 U.S. dollar for the hard currency they bought. Seaga said Monday that the bank's agents were paying as high as J24.60 for 1 U.S. dollar and the Central Bank had run up arrears of more than J200 million dollars—both charges denied by Finance Minister Hugh Small. Small also denied that commercial banks had "bounced" Central Bank cheques, saying that the Central Bank itself had put a stop on cheques drawn on the agents' accounts following discovery of manipulation of the system.

Last October new Central Bank governor, Roderick Rainford, rejected allegations that the Central Bank was buying foreign exchange at above the quoted rate and said that he would resign if it was true. Rainford was not immediately available for comment and banking sources said he would not make a public statement on the matter until after Small made a statement to Parliament.

However, financial sources said the police fraud squad had been called to the Central Bank. "These matters are being investigated by the bank," the Central Bank said in its statement.

St. Lucia

Opposition Leader Urges Economic Integration

FL0902133793 Bridgetown CANA in English 1306 GMT 9 Feb 93

[By Ric Mentus]

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, Feb 9, CANA—St. Lucia's opposition leader, Julian Hunte, says progress in the Caribbean Community depends on "economic integration".

"The only way forward for the Caribbean is through economic integration," he said in an interview with CANA. "Whichever way you look at it, time has caught up with us - Europe has begun the single market process; the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) is in place; the Asians are doing their own thing. What are we doing? Just sitting there waiting. But the point is, now is not the time for dreaming dreams."

He suggested that the reason for a go-slow on economic integration was the absence of the political will to do so.

"The fact is," he said, "that a lot of the current leaders don't have any vision. That's where the problem is."

The "time for action" report by the West Indian Commission, he felt, set out clearly the steps to be taken to achieve Caribbean integration.

"That's why I was disappointed that the Caricom commission idea was not accepted by the heads of government. But if they say they have an alternative to the commission, then one is free to suppose that they are prepared to pursue the other proposals in the report," he remarked.

He said he believed that the bureau, substituted for the commission, was a short-sighted move, "because the only way you can bring the integration movement forward is by utilising some of the mechanisms and methods of the European Economic Community (EEC) as suggested in "time for action"".

Hunte was also opposed to the current move for a union among the Windward Islands of St. Lucia, Grenada, Dominica and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

"We have always maintained," he said, "that the political union of the Windward Islands will in no way extricate us from the serious social and economic problems that we are currently facing. In fact, I believe things will get worse," he said.

He said no one has been able to explain the advantages of political integration in the Windwards, "except to say that in unity there is strength".

He added: "Although I am an integrationist in the strictest sense of the word, that will not prevent me from speaking out when I see something that I consider more in the interest of a few special groups, and as furthering the political aspirations of current prime ministers in the Windwards, and not neccessarily designed to relieve the serious social and economic problems which we now face."

The idea that the union of the four could serve as the nucleus of a large grouping was no justification, he said, to bring the islands together since there was sufficient data available to make the point that what was needed now in the Caribbean was the economic integration of the entire region. "Anything less than that is pure political semantics," he said.

Hunte said to get regional integration moving "all of us will have to give up something, and there is now the political will to do that, and there is a feeling one will never see it with the current political directorate in place."

Though nobody wanted to surrender sovereignty, he said, "I think we have to work around that and hope that in time it will sort itself out."

For the same reason he rejected the idea of a Windward Islands union, he said he could not "see the sense" in the proposal by Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Patrick Manning for closer economic ties among his country, Barbados and Guyana. "I believe we should go for the whole region. Any fragmentation at this stage makes no sense to me."

Asked what would be his reaction if the Windward Islands went ahead into a political union, Hunte said the St. Lucia Labour Party would then have to decide "how far they wished to go and the extent of their participation".

He said he planned to call a special meeting of the party to discuss the issue "to be clearer in our minds" on the position taken.

Geothermal Energy Project Postponed

FL0902182093 Bridgetown CANA in English 1405 GMT 9 Feb 93

[By Ric Mentus]

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, Feb 9, CANA—It seemed the natural and sensible thing to do at a time of high energy costs - harnessing the island's popular "drive-in volcano" to produce electricity, at least for the people who lived in its shadow.

But after six years of work, the attempt to generate geo-thermal energy from the hot springs of Soufriere on St. Lucia's south west coast, 27 miles from Castries, has ended in failure and the relegation of the project to the back-burner of government's priorities.

It all began in 1986, Aloysius Barthelmy, principal assistant secretary in government's Central Planning Unit, told CANA.

At the time, the government received two grants, one for US2.5 million dollars from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and another for US3 million dollars from the United Nations to explore the energy potential of the Soufriere.

The first attempt was a 7,261-foot deep well at a site called Belford to check the steam potential of the area. Unfortunately, this effort turned out to be a dry hole. So another well was sunk about half mile closer to the site of the bubbling hot springs that visitors flock to Soufriere to see, and which earned it the name of "the world's only drive-in volcano".

This time the effort met with a mixture of wet steam (90 per cent) and water.

The reservoir from which this material was coming was estimated to be running at a temperature of 292 degrees Celcius, and the experts predicted that it would have been able to produce about 10 megawatts of electricity, enough to provide energy for neighbouring villages of Soufriere, Vieux Fort, Choiseul and Labourie with a total population of about 34,719 in 8,086 households.

But after two weeks of operation, the discharge lost its water content and the steam became very dry, emitting a loud noise as it came out. The leaves of nearby trees were badly seared, and although they recovered later, it was decided to stop the operation because of environmental problems.

"But the showing was good enough," Barthemly said, "to attract some American companies in the energy field. However, negotiations with them to commercialise the project broke down because the Americans wanted total control of the operation which the government refused to do because it was seen as a matter of national interest."

At this stage, the project which was being handled by the Planning Ministry, was handed over to St. Lucia Electrical Services Limited, the government department responsible for electricity generation.

"They hired consultants from New Zealand, a country with a long tradition in geo-thermal energy production, to test the well and evaluate its long-term possibilities. But they discovered that a damaged casing in the lower section of the well was blocking the flow of steam," he said.

Although the New Zealanders went home for additional equipment, they were never able to free the obstruction, and that's where the effort came to a halt some time in 1991.

Barthelmy said it was projected that if the project was successful, it would have, over a 30-year period, saved the government about US250 million dollars in foreign exchange.

To get it going again would call for another injection of foreign aid either to drill a new well or to unblock the existing one.

Trinidad and Tobago

PM Manning Addresses Nation on Police Services

FL0902203493 Bridgetown CANA in English 1653 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Feb 9, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister Patrick Manning said Monday night that government will follow the lawful disciplinary procedures against 300 police officers who staged a demonstration on Friday. In an address to the nation, Manning said that National Security Minister Russell Huggins had written to the commissioner of police to determine whether the police service regulations were violated by the protesting officers who had marched around the Red House, seat of the country's Parliament.

"The minister has since received a reply from the commissioner of police stating that no permission was granted for the march," said Manning. He said regulation 49 of the Police Service Regulations required that prior permission of the commissioner had to be obtained before any officer institute or take part in any procession, demonstration, or public meeting.

Commissioner Jules Bernard also informed the security minister that a senior officer was appointed to investigate and report to him on the matter. Last Friday, the uniformed police officers marched around the Red House chanting: "Huggins must go. No foreigners, and Bernard must stay." In addition, they stopped three times in front of the National Security Ministry, opposite the Red House, continuing their chant, which was accompanied by trumpeters.

Their demonstration was against the use of Scotland Yard officers, with the authority of senior local officers to probe alleged corruption in the force. Government had announced last week the creation of four assistant commissioners for special investigations. Huggins said that it was necessary to give the Scotland Yard investigators authority within the local service to carry on their investigations.

The investigations followed charges of a drug cartel operating in the police service which were made by suspended assistant commissioner of police, Rodwell Murray. Murray claimed that his suspension over an alleged assault of a woman police officer was trumped up because of his refusal to join the cartel. The Scotland Yard officers reported that they did not find any drug cartel. They said they had discovered "a hard core of corrupt police officers who would do anything for money," including protecting drug traffickers.

Manning said that the action of the officers "would appear to be" a challenge to the legally and constitutionally elected government: a threat to the country's democracy and the rule of law.... the safety and security of "us all" and the state: a betrayal of the fundamental.... upon which the police was organised in a democratic society and made a mockery of the motto "To Protect and Serve."

He said it also appeared to be "a serious blow to confidence in the society and the economy and has the potential of diminishing the attractiveness of Trinidad and Tobago for investment, thereby undermining all our efforts to stimulate economic growth and development and reduce unemployment."

He added, "I am satisfied that the public expects some positive action to be taken in this regard so that all right-thinking and responsible police officers will have preserved for them the legitimacy and moral authority they need to enforce the laws of Trinidad and Tobago."

In his address, he said that over the years there had been difficulty in gathering evidence of sufficient cogency to justify the type of disciplinary proceedings which would rid the police service of "those undesirable elements" and restore public confidence in the police service. Stating that government was confident that the large majority of policemen and policewomen were decent, law-abiding citizens who were committed to their motto, Manning added, "unfortunately, the ongoing investigations clearly indicate that this cannot be said for all."

He said it was against this background that the government had committed itself to instituting an inquiry as it deems necessary, "so that the quality of evidence can be assembled which would lead to the charging, prosecuting, and removal where justified of undesirable elements from the police service."

He said because of past experience, government could not accept the exhortation of "physician heal thyself." "The national community is aware that previous efforts in this direction have borne little fruit and if anything the situation has become progressively worse."

Stating that the establishment of an investigative team of Scotland Yard officers cannot be seen in the context of re-colonisation, Manning said it was a case where the country was fighting to preserve its very independence from the worst elements of modern-day society.

"Thus the real issue of the day is the resolute stand that we must take to rid our and our children's lives of the drug menace and to free law-abiding citizens from the feeling of insecurity and virtual imprisonment as a result of unchecked criminal activity."

He said while the first round of the investigations have been completed, it was "critical" that further and deeper

inquiry proceed immediately. "The irony is that as the country, through governmental action, is seeking to get to the bottom of allegations of frightening acts of misconduct in the police service, we have come face to face with a brazen display by a few public officers of what the public perceives as police indiscipline.

"This government stands committed to the rule of law and therefore has no problem with legitimate representative association or trade union action.

"It would however view with the greatest concern any action by any person, more so police officers, which violates the country's laws.

"After all.... It is the police service which is charged with the responsibility of ensuring that all citizens observe the law," he remarked.

"I am satisfied that the public expects some positive action to be taken in this regard so that all right-thinking and responsible police officers will have preserved for them the legitimacy and moral authority they need to enforce the laws of Trinidad and Tobago."

Finance Ministry on Public Sector Demands

FL1002195793 Bridgetown CANA in English 1820 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Feb 10, CANA—The Finance Ministry in Trinidad and Tobago said on Wednesday that the issue facing the state was whether to give in to the demands of public sector unions and in so doing wreck the economy or have patience until the economy achieved sustainable growth to meet pay claims. The Finance Ministry noted the choice in a full page advertisement in the daily newspapers. It was the first response from the government to last Friday's mass protest demonstration involving thousands of public sector workers.

The demonstration around the Red House, seat of the Parliament, was triggered by demands for payment of 3 billion dollar (1 TT dollar = 23.5 U.S. cent) in arrears, the reduction in transfers to the public utilities and other government agencies, and the retrenchment plans of the government. The debt accumulated following suspension of a Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) and other increments and arrears on a 2 per cent increase by a special tribunal of the industrial court in 1989.

The unions, led by their umbrella National Trade Union Centre, are demanding immediately 40 per cent of the arrears due to the public sector workers and an increase in subsidies to public utilities to avoid retrenchment. The unions include the National Union of Government and Federated Workers Union, the Public Services Association, the Transport and Industrial Workers Union, and the Seamen and Waterfront Trade Union. They have planned a bigger protest demonstration around the Parliament and streets of Port of Spain on Friday.

The Finance Ministry said, "If government were to meet these demands at this time, the economic consequences would be disastrous for our country." It continued, "the issue before the entire nation is whether we immediately seek to satisfy all our individual demands and in so doing wreck the economy.

"Or whether we patiently harness our available resources and set the sage for sustainable growth which will not be long in coming."

The Finance Ministry said if it had to pay the 40 per cent demanded by the unions on top of the 520 million dollars as a result of the 2 per cent increase in salary and continue a 300 million dollar subsidy to the public utilities, there could be major problems. According to the ministry, headed by Finance Minister Wendell Mottley, it would mean having to reduce the unemployment relief programme which now provides jobs for 150,000 persons; reducing old age pensions; increasing the Value Added Tax (VAT); even re-introducing VAT on school books and drugs; increasing excise duties on petrol and other consumption goods; substantially raising marginal tax rates on all income brackets; and increasing user fees and charges for services provided by the public sector.

The Finance Ministry said it also could not default on its foreign debt since it would be catastrophic and would lead to a seizure of the country's external assets and the freezing of foreign reserves. It would also cause the elimination of lines of credit vital to trade; an embargo on the country's imports and exports; and the disappearance of capital funding critical to the country's growth from both official and commercial financial institutions.

"The consequences of repudiation could be economic strangulation. We know all too well the story of our Caricom (Caribbean Community) neighbours," the ministry said.

"Although we rightfully regard our external debt service obligations as being onerous in the eyes of the international financial community, Trinidad and Tobago simply does not qualify for debt forgiveness ahead of countries such as [word indistinct] and Guyana." The country's external debt stands at U.S. 2.2 billion dollars. Trinidad and Tobago has to repay some U.S. 653 million dollars this year.

The ministry said that "in times of plenty" the ready availability of government funds was used to mask fundamental weaknesses in the operations of the public utilities. Last year, the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA), the Port Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (PATT), and the Public Transport Services Corporation (PTSC) chalked up losses collectively totalling 342 million dollars.

Stating that the cost of production in each case was significantly high and the rates payable to customers were unrealistically low, the ministry added that the

wages and salaries bill of each of the utilities exceeded its gross revenues, thereby requiring substantial government subsidies.

"The basic truth is that the government is no longer in a financial position to continue to support these utilities by such massive subsidies," it stated. Government has also planned retrenchment of workers in the three utilities.

The ministry said that government's total revenue in 1993 was almost 7 billion dollars. From this, government will spend almost 3 billion dollars or 37 per cent on wages and salaries.

"The challenge now before us is the restoration of economic growth as quickly as possible.

"This will allow the satisfaction of the legitimate demands of all our people. Fundamental to this goal is increased investment," the ministry stated.

It said that government has already put in place several policies designed to stimulate the needed investment and their efforts were already beginning to bear fruit. Oil, the backbone of the economy, was on the rebound, the construction industry was stirring, and investor confidence was on the rise, the ministry reported. By 1995, the ministry predicts that the external debt service will become more manageable.

Second PAN Presidential Candidate Registers

PA1002042693 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Carlos Castillo Peraza registered as a presidential candidate for the National Action Party [PAN] on 8 February. He is the party's second candidate to register formally.

Ten national advisers presented the registration application and the candidate's acceptance letter to PAN Secretary General Cecilia Romero. Luis Mejia, president of the PAN committee in Michoacan, then explained Castillo Peraza's work plan, which contains three basic points: 1. To promote a broader explanation of the PAN's ideological profile; 2. To attain the level of development of a highly cohesive and efficient organization; and 3. To give the party the capability to implement a complete policy.

Castillo Peraza commented at a news conference that dialogue with the political parties and government should be based on clear agendas with a view to real progress toward democracy.

[Begin Castillo Peraza recording] Yes, there is a possible path: dialogue. [end recording]

He said that alliances should only be formed when there is a pledge to respect PAN's principles. Castillo Peraza said Mexico is undergoing a democratic transition, and he spoke of the need to overcome deviations and deal with challenges.

Among the advisers who support Castillo Peraza are PAN founders Alejandro Avilez and Juan Nanderreche.

Preliminary Election Results in Baja California

PA1002174293 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] After counting 78 percent of the tally sheets from 438 ballot boxes in Baja California, the Mexican Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), ratified the victory of its candidate for governor, Guillermo Mercado Romero. According to the preliminary results, Romero leads with 5,000 votes. This is what Mario Niebla, PRI regional coordinator, said:

[Begin Niebla recording] The PRI reports, after counting 78 percent of the tally sheets, that Guillermo Romero has unquestionably won the governorship. This is backed up by the signed election sheets. [end recording]

During a news conference, Niebla reported that according to preliminary reports of the elections for municipal presidents, the PRI is coming out ahead in Los Cabos, Loreto, and Muleje. Niebla added that in Comondu and La Paz districts, the votes favor the National Action Party [PAN]. The PRI coordinator reported that as of now the 15 deputy seats in the local congress are distributed as follows: PRI has won seven, the PAN one, an independent candidate—a former PAN member—has one, and the PRI is contesting two due to errors in procedure, data, or numbers.

Meanwhile, the PAN claimed that out of 60 percent of the tally sheets counted from 244 ballot boxes, the PRI is only winning the governor's election by 800 votes. According to the PAN, the results are favorable for the PAN in 100 percent of the ballot boxes counted in 10 districts. PAN assured they have won three of the state's five municipalities; Loreto with 1,734 in their favor against 1,728 for the PRI; La Paz, 27,230 in their favor against 18,690 for the PRI; and in Comondu, 10,747 in their favor against 7,393 for the PRI.

El Salvador

FMLN Coordinator: Missiles Will Not Be Destroyed

PA1002132993 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 8 Feb 93 p 7

[Text] Shafik Handal, general coordinator of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN], stated his organization's antiaircraft missiles will not be included in the arms destruction process that will conclude on 11 February.

He said the missiles will be destroyed once "the government fully complies" with the Armed Forces purge recommended by the Ad Hoc Commission.

He added that the peace agreements state that the destruction of the missiles is linked to the Army purge and this is why the United Nations has not stated its position on this issue.

Handal said the process for the destruction of conventional weapons in the Morazan, Las Marias, and Guazapa camps has been suspended for technical and operational reasons.

The destruction by the FMLN of these weapons is being carried out under the supervision of the UN observers for El Salvador, he noted. He did not indicate the number of missiles remaining to be destroyed.

Handal said compliance with certain peace agreement points is still pending and that the FMLN, with its current destruction of weapons, is demonstrating its will to comply with the agreements.

The FMLN leader declined to comment on the existence of armed groups in rural areas. Government sources have said those groups have ties to the FMLN.

Handal said the Army purge is necessary so this institution will be placed at the service of the people. He stated the missiles will be destroyed once there is compliance with this point of the peace agreements.

San Salvador Mayor on FMLN Weaons Destruction

PA1102041393 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Report by Maria Teresa Fajardo]

[Text] San Salvador Mayor Armando Calderon Sol said on 10 February that the culmination of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] weapons destruction process on 11 February is satisfactory and praiseworthy. Calderon Sol said this act strengthens the democratic process, creates social stability, and instills confidence to continue the peace plan being implemented by two parties that were previously involved in a confrontation.

[Begin Calderon recording] We are satisfied and happy the Salvadoran process is continuing despite the obstacles and problems. We are a true example to others. I think all Salvadorans should feel satisfied with what we are doing and building, a country that continues to consolidate its democracy. We must all participate in this phase of the national reconciliation process. We must strive to achieve the ultimate goal, the stability of our dear nation, so we may attain progress and economic development. [end recording]

Calderon Sol, who is president of the ruling Nationalist Republican Alliance, said he believes the Army should be used to improve security on the highways and in cities, given the wave of common crime that currently afflicts the population.

[Begin Calderon recording] I believe the state's main duty is to guarantee the people's lives because human life is most valuable. I think criminals are a threat to the Salvadoran people and a plan should be implemented. An overall plan is being prepared to protect the people and stop this crime wave. I think this is a task for all Salvadoran people and they should cooperate to enforce the law and eradicate crime in our country. The media also plays an important part in this.

Citizens should be willing to testify in court and cooperate when an investigation is carried out; otherwise, criminal acts will go unpunished. Sentences must be handed down and trials must be held; the law must be enforced and we must demand respect for the people's lives and property. We must implement a comprehensive program to fight crime and all citizens must participate. Citizens, the authorities, and the government must all cooperate to end the crime wave.

If the problem gets out of hand, the Armed Forces is there to guarantee our safety. The president is authorized to use the military to patrol the highways, agricultural areas, and cities. The military can help the security corps, the National Police in this case, stop the crime wave. I think this has to be done if crime continues unabated, even though many politicians want to politicize this issue. [end recording]

Calderon Sol was asked if he would approve a law that allows the enforcement of a death penalty. He said this is a very complicated issue but the authorities are working on a plan to stop crime. Citizens are expected to cooperate and support the actions carried out by the National Police.

FMLN Official on Land Transfer Delay

PA1002225393 San Salvador Radio Venceremos Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Report by Aura Morales]

[Text] The first phase of the land transfer program will be delayed if a positive agreement is not reached on the distribution of 47,673 manzanas and on the land titles'

format and contents. The first phase of the land transfer process started on 31 October 1992 and is scheduled to end in February or March. The second phase will start in April 1993 and the third phase will continue through part of 1994. Antonio Alvarez, a member of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] land commission, explained the problems of people who have rebuilt their houses and invested money in their properties.

[Begin Alvarez recording] Relocation is a problem that could jeopardize the entire land transfer process. The problem is basically located in residential areas of Chalatenango and Morazan. People living in those areas have small properties but have invested resources, improved their infrastructure, and are developing productive programs. Communities have incurred expenses and made investments. It will be very difficult to relocate an entire community.

Hundreds of families in Chalatenango and Segundo Montes have invested resources in their present properties, renovated their houses, and are working to develop the area. The communities have incurred many expenses in improving their properties, so it will be very difficult to transfer them to another area. [end recording]

The FMLN reported that AID and the EEC have provided $40 million to be used in the land transfer program, which will also benefit former soldiers. Those funds, however, will only cover the first phase and part of the second phase. Financial resources to end the second and third phases of the program are still unavailable. The FMLN also mentioned the lack of personnel to verify and make land appraisals as a problem that has further delayed the process.

Plan for Army to Direct Traffic Called 'Absurd'

PA1102030293 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Cristiani government's plan to send the Army into the streets allegedly to direct traffic would be a serious political mistake, a violation of the Constitution and the peace agreements. The government's announcement confirms the fact that to face the many complex problems our society must deal with, the only viable alternative this government has to offer is the use of weapons, clubs, and bayonets, thereby intensifying the Salvadoran people's social and political repudiation.

It is evident that for members of the Nationalist Republican Alliance the only solution is the use of weapons and force, as they have done in the cases of the street peddlers, strikes, and coffee crop surveillance. They only attack the effects, not the causes of problems. The name for this is militarism.

Salvadorans no longer want soldiers in the streets. We are all too aware of their behavior at checkpoints and during searches and of the threat posed by men with war weapons, grenades, pistols, and other weapons in streets, parks, movies, and city recreation and work centers. The implementation of this measure would mean the remilitarization of our cities. The use of soldiers to direct traffic would be absurd and reflects the military's cynical effort to recover the power of intimidation it has lost.

The traffic problem will not be solved by having Army troops learn the contents of traffic manuals, which have never been effectively applied because odious kickbacks have always gotten in the way. Moreover, Army troops are not sufficiently trained in public relations and respect for human rights to do the job. The new civilian policemen should promptly take over these tasks to ensure citizen safety and to implement the traffic laws. That is why a traffic and security division will be created within the National Civilian Police.

If the Army wants to do something, it would be preferable for the government to have soldiers work on public works projects so that as civilians and workers they can contribute to the construction of social projects: building new highways, bringing electricity to rural areas, and many other tasks required for national reconstruction and reconciliation. They must not take to the streets, where they would become factors of provocation and destabilization.

Guatemala

URNG Rejects Serrano's Statements on Talks

PA1002222193 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 9 Feb 93 p 4

[Text of statement issued by the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity, URNG, General Command; date and place not given]

[Text] The General Command of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG] states that President Serrano in a speech marked by much publicity and fanfare has made accusations and questioned the URNG's political willingness to negotiate.

Serrano's statements are not true. They distort the facts and maliciously convey incomplete information.

At no time has the URNG refused to attend a meeting, much less the meeting called for in February by mediator Monsignor Rodolfo Quezada Toruno. Since that proposal was first made, the General Command accepted it and, in a conversation with the mediator on 2 February, reiterated its commitment to attend.

This information is public knowledge. It was reported by the media, which quoted statements by the mediator. The date agreed on in principle for that meeting was 9 to 11 February. Later, without consulting with the parties and at his convenience, President Serrano publicized that the meeting would begin on 15 February, insinuating agendas and objectives different from those agreed

on. These anomalies prompted the URNG General Command to express its concern and dissatisfaction to the mediator in a meeting held on 2 February.

Despite that show of arrogance and given some practical reasons, which were expressed in a timely manner to the president, the URNG simply proposed a one-week postponement of the meeting.

This is why we categorically reject the president's public statements and state that they are deceitful. They intend to portray the URNG as lacking political will and practicing delaying maneuvers concerning the talks while this matter was still under discussion through the mediator.

These kinds of unfounded accusations obstruct and distort the atmosphere of fairness required in a negotiation.

Government Minister: Civilian Guard Essential

PA1102041493 Guatemala City SIGLO VENTIUNO in Spanish 10 Feb 93 p 6

[Text] Government Minister Francisco Perdomo Sandoval said that "the creation of a Civilian Guard to integrate government security forces including prison guards, Treasury Police, and National Police is essential because until now there has been no unified command unit."

He added that "security forces have had to face structural deficiencies that need to be totally changed. This is why we have sought the assistance of Chile's police corps."

Perdomo said that in the provinces the National Police have headquarters in the main towns, but in Guatemala Department no command structure exists."

"In Guatemala each security group goes its own way. That is why we want to establish a command unit over the other branches," Perdomo said.

He commented that "until now the project has been under study. We will implement the project in due time because it is wise that we exert control for our sake and for the citizens."

The minister was asked about the request by Isabel Allende, vice president of Chile's Socialist Party, to President Patricio Aylwin to stop the assistance the police corps give to the Guatemalan Government.

Perdomo respects that opinion as a very personal observation but believes that Allende does not have a real grasp of what the police corps are doing here.

The goal is to make the National Police more professional and to treat citizens more humanely; therefore the training should not only be maintained but increased, Perdomo commented.

Clarification on Ochoa Ruling Requested

PA1002161893 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 9 Feb 93 p 8

[Excerpt] On 8 February, the Attorney General's Office presented a request for the 10th Court of Appeals to expand and clarify its decision to deny the extradition of Lieutenant Colonel Carlos Rene Ochoa Ruiz, who is wanted by U.S. justice for drug-trafficking activities.

According to the Attorney General's Office, the extradition will determine if there is enough evidence to try Ochoa Ruiz on drug-trafficking charges in the United States. We want the court to expand and clarify its ruling because we do not agree with it, an official stated. [passage omitted]

Peace Commission President on Diplomatic Offensive

PA1102015793 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 9 Feb 93 p 8

[Interview with Peace Commission President Manuel Eduardo Conde Orellana by Felix Colindres Cordon; place and date not given]

[Text] In January, President Serrano's administration began an international diplomatic offensive that included visits to more than 50 countries by three special missions. These missions were formed by officials of the Foreign Ministry, Peace Commission, and the Socialist Democratic Party (PSD).

The objective of the offensive was to inform the international community about Guatemala's peace process and human rights situation. According to a Foreign Ministry report, the total cost of the trips was 500,000 quetzales. Political circles speculated about President Serrano's peace proposal, the exclusion of the military from the commissions, and the results of the diplomatic offensive in the country.

Questions have been raised regarding the importance of the initiative, if it is aimed at counteracting the insurgents' international political offensive of the past two decades and what response the government received. Peace Commission President Manuel Conde Orellana answered these and other questions in an interview with Felix Colindres Cordon. Mr. Orellana led one of the missions.

[Colindres] What was the government's objective in sending delegations to different countries?

[Conde] For some time now we have been evaluating the importance of a joint government mission that would present the peace process situation and the efforts made by President Serrano and his government to support anything that has to do with resolving the human rights issue.

It is well known that certain groups are devoted to tarnishing Guatemala's international image, not the government or the president. This calls for us to speak the truth and accurately report what is happening in our country.

Foreign Minister Gonzalo Menendez Park prepared a strategy that defined the international field of action, which must be dealt with in a very special and specific manner. The Foreign Ministry believes, very logically, that we cannot handle a uniform international strategy. We must utilize strategies with elements and arguments that can be directed at specific regions. The objective of these missions was to present President Serrano's peace proposal and to consolidate the absolute validity of human rights in Guatemala.

[Colindres] What importance does the incorporation of political elements in the mission have for the government?

[Conde] The maintenance of a first-rate relationship between politicians and foreign policy experts is fundamental to the government. We must take advantage of circumstances, such as President Serrano being vice president of the Democratic International.

On the other hand, the Socialist Democratic Party (PSD) is governing jointly with us, and at this time Dr. Mario Solorzano is vice president of the Socialist International.

We cannot let the opportunity go by without taking advantage of the international political relationship between the two parties that form the government, especially when their respective secretary generals are vice presidents of the two most important international political organizations in the world. The political element has been fundamental in this mission. It cuts to the heart of political blocs in other countries, where certain things will occur that will influence our country.

[Colindres] Are any economic interests involved?

[Conde] We were not moved primarily by any economic interest, but it is logical that the economic component is present. In this respect, we may appoint honorary consuls in the countries we visited because Guatemala is interested in attracting new markets. We discussed the possibility of Guatemalan multisector delegations visiting those countries.

[Colindres] How did the governments of the countries visited respond to the president's proposal, especially of those countries that were at one time governed by socialists?

[Conde] None of the countries visited ever doubted what reaching a peace agreement and ending the armed internal conflict in the time period indicated by President Jorge Serrano would mean to Guatemala.

We received support and solidarity from the foreign ministries regarding the peace proposals. I visited countries that were at one time part of the socialist bloc, that at one time could have even provided ideological and academic training to the Guatemalan insurgent leadership. We received support even from countries that at one time provided logistical support to the insurgents.

After the new world order and changes in socialist countries, it is not pleasant to hear that radical movements are still trying to apply solutions based on the force of arms and violence. The governments of these countries even said they were visited by rebel leaders in the 1960's and 1970's. Now these governments have offered to get in touch with some guerrillas to tell them they are on the wrong course.

These countries do not share the guerrilla doctrine or ideology, let alone the use of arms. The support for President Serrano was complete. Unconditional support for Guatemala's effort was even made official. The leaders of these countries said they personally could approach the guerrillas and try to move them to negotiate directly and more rapidly a sound and lasting peace.

[Colindres] The government has admitted that the guerrillas conduct a strong, efficient international campaign. Can you tell us if the delegations' role was to neutralize the insurgents' campaign?

[Conde] I would not say the delegations' work is "in response to" the guerrilla campaign but rather that it is a government strategy. The work abroad will continue, even without the guerrilla presence. One thing is for sure, however. We intend to present our country's reality objectively, in contrast to the distorted image presented by groups with their own interests.

Fortunately, the level of information at the foreign ministries in these countries is such that the distortions have not penetrated as much as some would like. It is true, however, that it has not been difficult for the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity to distort the truth because it found no opposition. But now the government is facing up to things at the international level.

[Colindres] What image did the countries visited get of Guatemala?

[Conde] The image is that of a country rich in resources with economic growth potential. Every one of the countries visited was in good economic shape. In Brussels, where the European parliamentarians are meeting, we met people who told us it is important to disseminate the truth, not distorted information, about our country. We did meet some parliamentarians who think it is impossible to live in Guatemala, that the country is at war, that it is dangerous to walk the streets, that children are being killed in Guatemala, and that the government even has a plan to assassinate Indians. Guatemala does not deserve this image.

[Colindres] Why did Army members not participate in these visits?

[Conde] Although Army officers have been with us on previous visits, the Foreign Ministry did not regard it as necessary this time. We will soon participate in another mission. This is a task for the Foreign Ministry and the Peace Commission. Although there will be Army members in this delegation, this was regarded as inappropriate in the past because the trips were long and these officers have their own responsibilities.

Honduras

Congress President: U.S. Embassy Interfering

PA1102021693 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 10 Feb 93 p 2

[Text] Tegucigalpa—On 9 February, National Congress President Rodolfo Irias Navas accused the U.S. Embassy in Honduras of "interfering in issues that do not concern it" by sending reports to the U.S. Government that are "totally removed from reality."

The legislative branch president was reacting to the opinions stated in the U.S. State Department annual report on human rights issues, which questions the policies of the President Rafael Leonardo Callejas administration.

Although he never mentions the U.S. Embassy by name in his statements, it is clearly understood that the deputy and legislative branch president is referring to U.S. diplomatic representatives. He is angry at the conclusions included in the State Department report, which accuses the deputies of not exercising their authority. According to Deputy Irias Navas, "I have not read the U.S. State Department report, and I am very concerned about the conclusions being made because they are far from the truth. I believe that certain embassies in our country should be more careful. They believe they carry more weight than the law grants them and they try to interfere in issues that do not concern them."

"I believe these types of reports are very discourteous because they are very removed from reality. I believe that each of the U.S. diplomatic representatives should show more restraint and look for statements and information from more reliable sources."

Irias Navas stated: "On various occasions I have seen how many countries have been misinformed because of the reports they receive from their respective embassies. These embassy personnel are people who normally do not tend to leave their desks nor do they gather information from trustworthy sources. They just tend to repeat what they are told by any source and they do not understand what is really taking place in a country like Honduras."

Deputy Irias Navas stated that the fact that newspaper reporter Eduardo Coto decided to leave the country does not mean that freedom of the press is being violated in Honduras. He added that human rights issues receive are given more respect by the current government than by any other administration.

Navas expressed his concern about the violent events that have taken place in Honduras in the past few weeks, mainly in San Pedro Sula.

The National Congress president added that the government plans to take measures to curtail the increasing crime wave. The measures he mentioned include sending a battalion to San Pedro Sula and expediting criminal procedures in the judicial branch.

"More in-depth investigations must be conducted, criminal conduct must not go unpunished, and the whole weight of the law must fall on every perpetrator" since "as long as certain cases go unpunished, there is going to be dissatisfaction and we are not going to end criminal activities in Honduras," the deputy said.

He disputed that the country's serious poverty problem is responsible for the rising crime rate in Honduras. He did acknowledge, however, that "it does cause certain types of crimes." Deputy Irias Navas stated that this conduct originates from "people involved in other activities, who have other motives."

According to Deputy Irias Navas, "When one analyzes the victims, one notices that the motives are not only to rob them but that something more is involved. I am not the person to report the nature of these motives."

New Regional Public Security Commander Appointed

PA1102033793 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 9 Feb 93 p 5

[Text] Colonel Julio Cesar Chavez—well aware of the criticism voiced as a result of unsolved crimes in the city—on 9 February turned over the regional command of the Public Security Forces [FSP], to Lieutenant Colonel Arnold Cabrera Padilla, a lower-ranking officer. Cabrera Padilla promised to lower the crime rate.

Chavez, in his speech at the turning over of the FSP Region 2 Command, said: "I have no regard for unfair criticism, my conscience is clear. God is my judge."

The ceremony was attended by Mario Hung Pacheco, commander general of the FSP, and civilian authorities from San Pedro Sula and Cortes Department.

Chavez said that this city has not been able to escape crime, terrorism, and international drug trafficking.

When mentioning his transfer to another post, Chavez said it was needed to motivate the police response to the community's needs and was ordered by his superiors.

"I tried to fulfill my duty with responsibility and honesty," the officer said, wishing his successor good fortune "in reaping victories against crime."

Lt. Col. Arnold Cabrera Padilla stated that crime "had quickly spread because of the characteristics of our society which, as a consequence, affect the people's security and their properties."

Cabrera Padilla said that Chavez, with limitations, had made efforts to combat crime, to maintain law and order, and to provide personal security.

Cabrera Padilla said that the investigation of crime cannot be concluded as quickly as the community would like because certain procedures must be followed. "But that does not mean that they should go on forever," he said.

On the possibility of halting the crime wave, he admitted that "it is difficult to end, as is man's nature to go by the wayside. Therefore, the right word to use would be to minimize the crime wave."

Cabrera Padilla said he was satisfied with his work as Region 1 Commander in La Ceiba, where he had reduced the crime rate.

With regard to the accusations made against him for the murder of Yoro Mayor Dario Rolando Urbina, Cabrera Padilla said he had proven his innocence. Cabrera Padilla said that he would assign all the forces necessary to clear up this murder. "My conscience is clear before God and mankind," he said.

Col. Mario Hung Pacheco, justifying the change in command, said that "changes in any organization are necessary because they foster the spirit that every institution should have. The FSP is not removed from these changes."

Hung Pacheco highlighted Col. Chavez' work and praised Lt. Col. Cabrera Padilla's experience in the police field.

He asked for the reporters' cooperation "but this does not mean snooping around. It must be spontaneous cooperation, focused on fighting crime," Hung Pacheco concluded.

Armed Forces Commander on Groups' 'Smoke Screen'

PA1102043593 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 9 Feb 93 p 31

[Excerpts] On 8 February, Armed Forces Commander General Luis Alonso Discua Elvir charged that groups outside the military institution are trying to throw up a "smoke screen" to cover up what is really happening in the country. He threatened to publicize "confidential" documents to unmask those groups.

The Honduran military commander spoke at length to Radio America. He responded to groups that have charged that the military is responsible for the violence in San Pedro Sula. He said the situation that existed in the sixties, seventies, and eighties has changed. He "sees no reason for those groups to accuse current military personnel."

Discua Elvir maintained that the "ideological war" that developed in those years no longer exists. He believes that the problem in Honduras is not the Armed Forces but the people's "economic problems" and society's loss of values because of economic and political problems.

The military commander stated that several groups are trying to hold the Armed Forces accountable for several problems in the country because "it is the only duly organized institution and, logically, the Armed Forces is an obstacle to the future objectives of many people."

The military leader said that a great deal of criminal activities are the result of drugs, hunger, poverty, and deterioration of several political activities. He believes the Armed Forces are not solely responsible for the struggle against crime and that society is also responsible and has to work in coordination with the Armed Forces to further this endeavor.

Discua Elvir said it is easy to blame the Armed Forces for everything instead of "taking responsibility for what is really taking place in this country." [passage omitted]

Discua Elvir ruled out that the violence in San Pedro Sula is being caused by dissatisfied Armed Forces members who are not pleased with his reelection or by former 3-16 Battalion members.

"We need to be serious and sit down and analyze the situation and not use the institution as a scapegoat. We need to look for the clear reason behind what is happening in this country."

"We have a series of problems. We see that political parties have internal problems and there are problems at other levels, but we should not look for these problems within a single institution such as the Armed Forces."

Discua Elvir said it is "very easy to blame or berate an institution. Gen. Discua is not being berated; the Armed Forces are being berated, a permanent national institution, an institution that belongs to the central government."

He said that these types of remarks are aimed "at turning one's back on reality" and this is not the case. "This country has a very serious economic situation, very serious political situation. These people want to distract attention by blaming the Armed Forces."

"I believe we need to be serious. I ask that we sit down and talk and see the exact reason (for the violence). It is very easy to blame" the Armed Forces.

"Other secrets are being kept. We need to investigate and to sit down and talk."

The military chief denied that acts against the media have increased.

Regarding the U.S. State Department report that Honduran soldiers are continuing to violate human rights, he said that "this is a bit far from reality."

Discua Elvir said that when a soldier has been involved in a criminal act, he is taken to court, and judges' rulings have been obeyed.

What happens, he insisted, is that there is a bias aimed at "harming the institution. I believe that there are other reasons and we are going to investigate them."

"We are going to investigate, to take out all our confidential documents on many things in this country, because if the reason is something else, attention is then distracted. This is called a smokescreen to mask what is really happening in this country."

Discua Elvir said he had known that "increased attacks" against the Armed Forces were in the offing. We "had reports" of what is happening and we are working to determine and investigate what is the real reason why groups outside the institution want to harm us and their future ill-fated plans for the institution."

The Armed Forces chief refused to identify these groups who supposedly intend to destabilize the Armed Forces. He would only say that "we are investigating."

Discua Elvir said he respects but does not share the opinions of the Honduran Human Rights Defense Committee President Ramon Custodio, who charged that the military were thieves, murderers, and drug traffickers.

Discua Elvir said he called Custodio to inform him about what had really happened to his vehicle. He said that Custodio "sometimes calls me."

Discua Elvir did not rule out that the Armed Forces may "at some point" proceed through the courts because these are not the old days.

Army, Recontras Said Clashing in North, East

PA1102003093 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 2200 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Excerpt] A witness reports heavy clashes in northeastern and eastern Nicaragua. Here is the report:

Heavy clashes took place today in northeastern and eastern Nicaragua between government troops and rearmed members of the former Nicaraguan Resistance [RN]. Initial casualties included two injured civilians, one of whom was injured by the Army. At 0900, more than 100 recontras, as the rearmed are called, attacked at El Achiote. The Army was nearby and heavy fighting ensued. A friend and I were wounded, Jorge Jarquin said from a hospital in Matagalpa, 130 km northeast of Managua.

Jarquin, a 43-year-old peasant, with an unidentified friend, said that they were able to escape the fighting and reach the hospital in Matiguas. He added that there may be more injured or dead.

Army spokesman Lieutenant Milton Sandoval confirmed today's fighting in El Achiote and Santolar, near Bocana de Paiwaas, but said he did not know about casualties. Fighting is going on in the area and the Army is chasing the recontras, but we have no reports on casualties, Sandoval said over the telephone.

Sandoval said that about 120 rearmed men are moving about the area under the command of men identified as Cara de Mono, Cardinas, Cuatro Ojos, Guacharo, Zopilote, and Catala. There have been more than 60 killed, mostly former RN members, since the Army began a military operation on 22 December in northern and eastern Nicaragua to dismantle them, Colonel Ricardo Wheelock said recently. Since the beginning of the operation, entitled Everything for the Sake of Stability [Todo Por la Estabilidad], there have been 29 clashes. We have killed 50, injured 35, and captured one, Wheelock said during a news conference. Wheelock also said that there have been seven soldiers killed, 10 soldiers injured, and 10 policemen killed. The clashes have taken place mostly in Nueva Segovia, Esteli, Jinotega, and Matagalpa. The spokesman said that there are about 800 recontras, divided into small groups, but another independent source said there could be as many as 1,500 recontras. [passage omitted]

'Heavy' Fighting in Chontales Reported

PA1102023493 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 2200 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] In Chontales Department, particularly in southern Zelaya, heavy fighting has been reported between recontras and members of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] in a region known as Achiote Vaca Blanca. [word indistinct] recontras operate in this region, led by La Chispa, El Canto, Cara de Malo, and an individual known as [words indistinct]. According to local merchants, this group has kidnapped three families.

A military source reported that two peasants, Juan Jarquin Jarquin and Ulalio Jarquin Jarquin, were injured during clashes with this group. Both peasants are from the Comarca [words indistinct], where the EPS was fighting recontras who operate in the area.

In Camoapa, clashes took place with a group known as The Gang of [words indistinct], during which the following individuals were arrested: Damian Perez Palacio, alias El Cascabel; Rafael Valdivia; and Juan Rivas Vargas, alias Barba Larga. These individuals have been placed in the custody of Camoapa authorities. They will be sent later to police authorities in Boaco Department.

Confirmed reports stated that these individuals have staged 10 attacks in Camoapa. The same military source said that on 10 February over 50 recontras assembled on the outskirts of Las Lajas. This is a security zone where they are concentrating.

The government minister...[pauses] Deputy Government Minister Joaquin Lobo was visiting Camoapa,

where preparations are being made for the 25 February festivities marking the National Opposition Union anniversary.

Chamorro Attends Meeting of Government Branches

PA1002191593 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Speech by President Violeta Chamorro; place and date not given—live or recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Text] ...we, representatives of the four government branches have met; that is, the Supreme Court of Justice, for the judicial branch; the Supreme Electoral Council, for the electoral branch; the Legislative Assembly Board of Directors, for the legislative branch; and the president of the Republic, with the state ministers, for the executive branch. We have attended this meeting at the suggestion of the Legislative Assembly to discuss state issues I consider to be important. I want to address the community in my capacity as president of the Republic, to make it a party to our reflections. Some of these reflections remind me of parts of my inaugural speech. On that occasion, I said that for more than 100 years we Nicaraguans have yearned for a democratic nation in which we would all be equal before the law. Our nation's history has taught us that although on several occasions we have had the opportunity to structure a true democracy, we lost these opportunities subsequently due to military ambitions or to some others' ambitions. Therefore, the new nation, the new democracy, again became an aspiration. This is why my government program offered the people a national dialogue and a national commitment among all the nation's sectors.

The goal was to reconciliate Nicaraguans, to construct a democracy, and to achieve the recovery of the nation's overall [word indistinct]. This would be based fundamentally on dialogue and political [word indistinct]. I made a commitment to form a new Nicaragua, a new Nicaragua facing the future, not a Nicaragua looking back on the past. A Nicaragua where we would all enjoy permanent peace, individual freedom, and spiritual and material progress. A Nicaragua where the state of law, as a cultural attitude, would gradually encompass each of us with a profound spirit of mutual respect until we achieve a state of justice. I also made a commitment to respect and obey the Constitution. One of the Constitution's fundamental provisions sets out that the legislative, executive, judicial, and electoral branches are independent of each other. These branches are subordinated solely to the nation's supreme interests and to the Constitution. Nevertheless, they should coordinate harmoniously so that, jointly and representing the state, their efforts are implemented in an orderly and respectful fashion in search of justice and well-being. To achieve this new Nicaragua, we all must trod a difficult road full of obstacles [words indistinct]. Realizing a new Nicaragua is much more difficult than we ever imagined. Nevertheless, with our faith and willingness we will achieve this new Nicaragua.

If we look at the three years of my administration since my inauguration, we can see that we have made a great deal of progress toward our objectives. The current Nicaragua is not the same as the Nicaragua of three years ago, although it has not been easy to govern in light of so many difficulties. We need dedication, work, comprehension, and a patriotic unity to continue with our tasks. Nicaraguans, we should not listen to the drums of war nor to the calls for confrontation and violence. We should understand that only in a peaceful environment can Nicaragua progress. We should have faith in the future and in ourselves.

The goal of the meeting with the four state branches, united in our intentions, is to transmit a message of peace, harmony, and hope to the Nicaraguans. Therefore, it is now our people's turn to join in this great effort to make a new just and democratic Nicaragua possible. The four state branches have renewed their constitutional commitment of mutual respect, harmony, and independence as a guarantee for institutional and political stability. Nevertheless, stability of peace and state of law are not only the government's responsibility, they are also the responsibility of all Nicaraguans. I invite all my Nicaraguan brothers to contribute their best efforts, so that jointly, as the government and as the community, we can give our children a stronger and united nation. Thank you very much. [applause]

Presidency Minister on Constitutional Reform

PA1102043993 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 2200 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo has ruled out any possibility of making substantial reforms to the Constitution until the conflicting legislative blocs reach an agreement. If the deputies do not reach an agreement to end the five-month crisis, there will be no constitutional reforms, the head of the cabinet forecast. Lacayo criticized the unyielding positions of legislative assembly blocs that place their personal interests before society's interests. The Presidency minister said during a cattle ranchers' meeting at the Olof Palme Convention Center that he believes the legislative assembly's problems will only worsen as long as the conflicting parties do not reach an agreement.

European Parliament Recognizes Return of Legality

PA1002163493 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] The European Parliament has recognized in a letter the return of legality to the National Assembly of Nicaragua made possible through the intervention of the Executive Branch, which enforced a ruling of the Supreme Court of Justice.

The letter, signed by European Parliament President Fernando Suarez, stated they are pleased to confirm institutional normalcy reigns in Nicaragua and that the conflict at the National Assembly is over.

The message also referred to the ruling issued by the Supreme Court of Justice of Nicaragua, which is, as in all democratic countries, the body called to settle conflicts among branches of state.

Foreign Cooperation Minister on Finnish Debt Pardon

PA1102003693 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Statements by Foreign Cooperation Minister Erwin Kruger and Finnish Development Cooperation Minister Toimi Kankaanniemi at Augusto Cesar Sandino International Airport in Managua; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Kruger] Your presence reflects Finland's support for this democratization process, for the consolidation of democracy. We appreciate Finnish cooperation especially because Finland is going through difficult times.

We announce to the media and general public that the Finnish Government has pardoned Nicaragua's entire foreign debt. The Finnish Parliament already ratified this decision. The debt as of 31 March 1993 was $2.9 million. We are moved because Finland continues to maintain its cooperation level and, above all, its position as a special contributor.

We agreed to hold talks in June to negotiate a biannual cooperation agreement for 1992 to 1994. We must thank Finland because Nicaragua is continuing to receive aid even though Finnish cooperation was reduced because of budgetary constraints and difficulties facing that country. Finland will try to maintain the same level of aid for Nicaragua. This has impressed us very much because they will reduce aid to others while trying to maintain the same level of aid for Nicaragua.

The Finnish minister promised that as soon as Finland recovers—and we hope, as they do, it will be soon—his country will increase cooperation levels. It is important to mention that Nicaragua was the main recipient of Finnish aid in Latin America. It received more than $45 million from 1990 to 1992. This includes cooperation programs to purchase raw materials, (?merchandise), services, aid to meet overdue payments, and rural development projects.

We have used these projects as models in other areas of the country. Agriculture Minister Rondon told me they are being applied in Chontales, Rio San Juan, and elsewhere. They are being applied in rehabilitating milk factories and in hospital maintenance. We reopened a remodeled Aldo Chavarria Hospital, which this was made possible by Finnish cooperation. In keeping with presidential orders, we unveiled a plaque in which the Nicaraguan Government recognizes Finland's donations to repair this hospital, because we wanted to show our permanent recognition. This aid is the result of international support, sacrifice, and cooperation. Minister Kankaanniemi unveiled this plaque.

Finland is preparing a social action program to help ease the effects of our adjustment plan. We hope to apply it during the second half of 1993 after studies are completed. This program is in line with our economic plan guidelines. Together we are working on a special document on cooperation with Nicaragua to improve the strategy and combat environmental threats.

What is important is that Finland is present despite its economic problems. They are still interested and ready to help us as much as possible. We are very happy they worry about our problems, as good friends would. They visit us and give us their views and, above all, their solidarity. Minister Kankaanniemi would like to make a statement.

[Kankaanniemi] We visited the comprehensive rural development project facilities and a few projects of the Finnish [word indistinct]. This comprehensive rural development project has several components. I am fully convinced of this project's good management and planning. It is very well planned and its implementation has involved excellent cooperation between Nicaraguan authorities and its (?promoters).

We attended the reopening of the renovated Aldo Chavarria Hospital, which specializes in rehabilitating handicapped people. The Nicaraguan health minister, hospital director, patients, and hospital personnel voiced their happiness over the successful completion of the project.

This good management solidifies even more our trust in Nicaragua. These experiences convinced me of the need to not only continue but to increase our cooperation with Nicaragua, when Finland's economic situation warrants. I hope that will be soon.

Dr. Kruger already mentioned that Finland pardoned Nicaragua's debt. This decision was ratified very recently; the Finnish Parliament ratified it in January. This is an important decision because it strengthens macroeconomic development in Nicaragua.

I learned first-hand about the current situation [words indistinct] and developments at the Nicaraguan National Assembly. I hope the situation at the Assembly will be settled as soon as possible to open this country's doors to democracy. The key to a positive development is determination to solve this problem through dialogue and negotiations.

I wish to voice the Finnish people's hope the reconciliation policy will prevail and that you will solve this problem.

Panama

Endara Meets New Chamber of Commerce President

PA1102024693 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 9 Feb 93 p 12

[Report by Veronica Tamayo]

[Text] Ricardo Duran, new president of the Chamber of Commerce, met with President Endara on the morning of 8 February at the Presidency to invite him to the opening of the Industrial and Commercial Fair [Exposicion Comercial e Industrial—Expocomer] organized by the Chamber of Commerce.

Expocomer will open on 10 March and run for five days at the Atlapa Convention Center. Duran added that members of the Chamber of Commerce asked President Endara to invite the Mexican president to be the main speaker at the fair.

Duran said that he and other members of the Chamber of Commerce met with President Endara in the Cabinet Room.

Regarding the problems between the president and the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors on the Social Security Fund issue, Duran said that problem ended a long time ago, before the 8 February meeting. Duran said they had talked to Endara earlier about various situations from which the Chamber of Commerce felt it had been left out. He said that Endara told them that this had not been done intentionally.

Duran stated that the situation that came about between the Executive Branch and the Board of Directors was a natural consequence of appointments of this type. The Chamber of Commerce viewed its reaction as healthy and correct.

Duran added that the Chamber of Commerce will always be friends with President Endara, private enterprise, and all the other groups that have to work together in our country, because the goal is simply to promote the progress and ensure the welfare of all Panamanians.

Duran said the Chamber of Commerce will not have a seat on the Social Security Fund Board of Directors because all appointments have been made.

Regarding the possibility of changing the Labor Code, Duran said that the Chamber of Commerce has a flexible position on this subject because the Labor Code simply has to be updated for the benefit of all Panamanians and the country.

Duran said that talks are currently under way with workers at various levels and on various topics, not only about reforms to the Labor Code.

Court Reviews Report on Suspended Attorney General

PA1002193193 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Report by Ariel Rosas]

[Text] After a long wait, at 1130 Solicitor General Donatilo Ballesteros delivered to the Supreme Court of Justice the report on suspended Attorney General Rogelio Cruz Rios. A process server delivered the voluminous report to Carlos Cuestas, Supreme Court general secretary.

[Begin recording] [Cuestas] The substantiating [substanciadora] judge must see it first.

[First unidentified reporter] What course will it take now?

[Cuestas] It will be forwarded to the substantiating judge so she can draft an assessment of the report.

[Reporter] What is the assessment of the report right now?

[Cuestas] None, because the judge has to assess it.

[Second unidentified reporter] How long does she have to do this?

[Cuestas] The code states that the court has 15 working days. [end recording]

In addition, lawyer Sidney Sitton, with the report in hand, gave exclusive comments to "Telemetro Reports" on Ballesteros' decision. [Begin Sitton recording] The report sent by Solicitor General Donatilo Ballesteros is patriotic and does honor to lawyers. Ballesteros has asked the full Supreme Court of Justice to charge Rogelio Cruz Rios with the following counts: offense against public administration, specifically, embezzlement; collusion and accepting bribes; offense against public administration for abuse of authority and transgression of the duties of a public servant; and offense against public administration for breaking seals and removing documents from public offices. U.S. Ambassador Deane Hinton sent Cruz letters regarding accounts that were frozen due to their links to drug trafficking and money laundering which were removed by Cruz while he was in office. These documents are among the evidence Cruz' defense has presented to exonerate him.

We must mention that the solicitor general has told the Supreme Court that, should it deem it appropriate to order an expansion of the report, it should consider evidence not previously investigated. He also asked or informed the court that he forwarded to the Finance and Treasury Revenues Directorate a list of all the people who benefited from the release of those accounts, so the Directorate can verify if those people filed the appropriate tax statements and paid their taxes.

Another important thing we must mention here is that Ballesteros told the Supreme Court that if an expansion of the file is ordered, Miguel Aleman Mendoza, Silvia de Aleman, Hector Infante, and Rafael Jose Galiano should be questioned, as the report ordered but was not done because of time limitations. Ballesteros also asked that Miriam Martinez, Raul Perales, Jose Maria Calderon, Ernesto Roja, Maribel Rufo, Candido Garcia, Manuel Icaza, Jorge Perico, and Silvia de Herman be questioned because the Judicial Technical Police could not locate them or did not want to locate them.

In addition, Ballesteros requested in his report that several local banks be declared in contempt for refusing to provide the information required by law. [end recording]

DEA Help Requested in Destroying Coca Plantations

PA1002202993 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 10 Feb 93 p 64

[Report by Jose Gonzalez Batista]

[Text] Government Minister Juan B. Chevalier confirmed on 9 February that the national government requested the assistance of DEA agents to destroy coca plantations discovered in Darien jungles. He also disclosed that members of the Police Rapid Deployment Group (GERP) arrested a Colombian citizen named Rojas who presumably owned those plantations.

According to Chevalier, Panama requested DEA assistance because Panama does not have the necessary equipment to destroy almost 90 hectares of coca discovered by Panamanian elite groups participating in the operation to rescue missionaries Mark Rich, Richard Tenenor, and David Mankin, who were supposedly kidnapped by members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).

Chevalier said that in addition to discovering the coca plantations in the inhospitable Darien jungles near the Colombian border, the GERP also found two cocaine-processing laboratories.

He added there have been sporadic clashes between Panamanian special forces and alleged guerrillas or drug traffickers operating in the Darien jungle area. He said that as a result of the actions carried out by state security agents, 17 people without identification documents and two suspected guerrillas were arrested.

Chevalier reported that after 90 hectares of coca and marijuana plants were detected, a Colombian citizen by the name of Rojas, who supposedly owned the plantations, was arrested and chemicals and tools for processing cocaine were confiscated.

The missionaries were kidnapped on 31 January supposedly by FARC guerrillas who operate near the border region.

According to government sources, the Panamanian Foreign Ministry recently requested cooperation from its Colombian counterpart to locate the kidnappers of Rich, Tenenor, and Mankin, who belong to the U.S. missionary group "New Tribes."

A Panamanian Government spokesmen reporting on the actions in Darien said the whereabouts of the missionaries kidnapped by the FARC are unknown, although a group of Panamanian rebels recently claimed responsibility for the action.

National Police Director Oswaldo Fernandez, who is in charge of the "Free Border" operation, said there are reports indicating that the missionaries and their kidnappers are still in Panamanian territory.

In a radio message sent to the Presidency, Fernandez said the rescue operation is continuing in the Darien mountains, and it is hoped the presumed guerrillas will soon be located, as there are reports indicating they are still in Panama.

Linares on U.S. Senate Not Ratifying MLAT

PA1002201093 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 10 Feb 93 p 1A

[Report by Vilma E. Figueroa B.]

[Text] Foreign Minister Julio Linares expressed regret that the exchange of notes ratifying the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) has not taken place because the U.S. Senate has not reviewed the agreement.

Although Panama signed the MLAT, which was approved by the Legislative Assembly in July 1991 during special sessions, it must be reviewed and ratified by the U.S. Senate before its implementation.

"The U.S. Executive Branch submitted the MLAT to the U.S. Senate for approval, but unfortunately it has not yet been reviewed," Linares said.

According to Linares, this is preventing implementation of the treaty, because to proceed with the exchange of notes, it must be approved by the U.S. Senate.

Linares said there is no reason to believe that certain U.S. senators may be reluctant to ratify the MLAT,

which permits exchange of information on drug trafficking between Panama and the United States.

Linares said that once the MLAT is implemented it will be handled through a central office under the Government Ministry. He added he is sure Government Minister Juan Chevalier and other ministry officials are serious and responsible individuals who have maintained an irreproachable conduct.

He added that although it is true there might be dishonest government officials in Panama, this phenomenon is occurring everywhere in the world, including the United States.

Legislator on U.S. 'Campaigns To Discredit' Country

PA1102003593 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 10 Feb 93 p 5A

[Report by Hermes Sucre Serrano]

[Text] The Guillermo Endara government is not doing anything abroad to change Panama's image as "Tortuga Island," a land of robberies, drugs, and corruption left behind by the military, said Legislator Olimpo Saez, chairman of the Legislative Assembly Foreign Relations Commission.

Saez stated that Endara has been "unable" to stop internal disputes and the "washing of dirty linen in public," forgetting that this kind of "secondary interest" is dirtying the country's reputation abroad.

According to the Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement legislator, circles in the United States inside and outside the government have launched a series of public relations campaigns to discredit Panamanian society, its banking center, and the democratic process.

In the last few months, he added, it has been very common to observe reports in different media portraying Panama as a sanctuary for drugs, money laundering, and widespread corruption.

Saez explained that the distortion of Panamanian reality is also being orchestrated by influential individuals of the previous regime, who lobby [preceding word in English] and maintain good contacts with U.S. Government circles.

"When signs of recovery appeared in Panama, they took on the task of questioning the Endara administration, using as their argument the issues of drug trafficking and money laundering. This is being promoted by U.S. circles," Saez said without identifying these circles.

He added that aside from showing "political myopia," President Guillermo Endara and his team have demonstrated "laziness and lack of vision and determination" to face those campaigns.

"We have let the enemies of democracy launch campaigns against us and we have done nothing," Saez said.

Regarding the Foreign Ministry's role, Saez explained that Panamanian diplomacy has been adversely affected by a "rookie" working team which, although it has good intentions, does not have the experience in lobbying that the pro-Noriega people have.

He said sufficient resources do not exist to carry out this task effectively. "We are talking here about embassies without fax machines that pay miserable salaries," the legislator stated.

Saez warned that thanks to those campaigns and the government's inaction, foreign forces will make this and coming administrations kneel down. "Every day we will see a more interventionist U.S. attitude concerning Panama's domestic affairs," he concluded.

Argentina

Battalion Ready To Join UN Force in Gulf

PY1002140893 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2325 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Feb (TELAM)—Defense Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez tonight ordered the preparation of a Navy battalion to join the UN peace force in the Persian Gulf, while three other Army battalions were put in a state of "pre-alert" for the same purpose.

Official sources have confirmed to TELAM that the decision was adopted during a meeting between the defense minister and Military Affairs Secretary Juan Ferreira Pinho, who conveyed the order to General Mario Candido Diaz, commander in chief of the Joint Staff.

The final decision on the sending of the Navy battalion to the Gulf zone in Air Force (?planes) lies with President Carlos Menem.

Deputy Foreign Minister Fernando Petrella earlier said that the United Nations has asked the Argentine Foreign Ministry to send an infantry battalion to join the multinational forces operating on the border between Kuwait and Iraq.

The Argentine Army has three battalions on "pre-alert," ready to be sent abroad as UN peace forces. They could leave in less than 30 days from receiving the order, a high-ranking Air Force source said.

The source consulted by TELAM following the UN request to Argentina to send a land force to the demilitarized zone on the border between Iraq and Kuwait stated that this force will act as "observers" to see that the UN resolutions are fulfilled.

The source stated: "Argentine Army Battalion BEA III is ready to leave for Croatia, but it could be sent to another zone if required." He added: "The decision to send a similar unit to the border between Iraq and Kuwait will be made this week."

Foreign Ministry Urges Haitian Democracy

PY0902153993 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0025 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Feb (EFE)—The Argentine Foreign Ministry today, 8 February, urged the military government of Haiti to avoid delaying the restoration of democracy and to end the situation of violence.

The Foreign Ministry has made a "firm call" to the Haitian military regime, which in September 1991 overthrew the government of Constitutional President Jean Bertrand Aristide, to cooperate "with UN special envoy Dante Caputo," and to return to democracy.

Last Thursday Caputo, former president of the UN General Assembly and former Argentine foreign minister, had to leave Port-au-Prince in the midst of insults from a thousand followers of Haitian Prime Minister Marc Bazin, without achieving governmental support for his mission.

Following the difficult situation Caputo experienced in Port-au-Prince, the Argentine Foreign Ministry stressed "the spirit of respect for the UN Charter and for the Organization of American States (OAS)" to prevent those episodes "from being repeated."

Bolivia

Peasants in Yungas, Chapare Resume Growing Coca

PY1002195393 Santa Cruz EL MUNDO in Spanish 2 Feb 93 National Section p 3

[Text] Villa Tunari, 1 Feb (ANF [Agencia de Noticias Fides])—Peasants from Chapare and Yungas dedicated a vast coca leaf plantation today to protest the lack of support from the government, which also failed to comply with its promises to promote the alternative development program.

During an event this weekend in Paractito, coca-growing leaders criticized the attitude of the government, which did not provide the appropriate assistance to peasants who eradicated coca plantations.

Coca-growing leaders from Yungas and Chapare and other labor organizations attended the ceremony in which peasants resumed growing coca.

German Portanda, the Chapare Peasant Federation executive secretary, said the new coca plantation will deal a hard blow to the government of the Patriotic Accord, "which has decided to obey U.S. Embassy orders on coca eradications programs."

Portanda said: We are determined to promote new coca plantations across the region because we deem that "the very famous" alternative development program has failed. Despite having nothing, we have in principle decided to destroy our plantations.

Peasants from the Chapare region eradicated more than 79 percent of their coca plantations in exchange for the promise to install potable water, repair roads, and improve the education infrastructure.

Portanda said: "This new plantation is not merely an announcement but a concrete fact that all peasants are planting coca in each hectare."

He also said they are not violating Law No. 1008, which they do not consider a legal instrument because it was imposed by the United States.

Peasants complain because the government has always deceived them. They said they have nothing to eat and

decided to plant coca, which represents their only income source. Planting the coca leaf in the humid soil of Chapare they said: "If they want to send us to jail, we will go."

They also said they will prevent the entry of Direco [Coca Reduction Directorate] personnel in the tracks and gullies, and if the personnel enter, they will not guarantee their security.

San Jose Mine Closed; Workers Urged To Retire

PY1102115493 La Paz HOY in Spanish 2 Feb 93 p 6

[Excerpt] The Mining Corporation of Bolivia [Comibol] closed the San Jose mine on Sunday, 31 January. The workers are being pressured to voluntarily retire.

Comibol President Marcelo Perez Monasterios has told the press that "the respective government officials and workers have been notified that the San Jose mine was closed definitively on 31 January."

More than 1,500 miners will have "to voluntarily retire" in mining districts where shared risk contracts will be implemented, as well as in those mines where losses have been experienced.

Perez added: "It is obvious that when a company is experiencing chronic losses, its financial sources must dry up. Comibol's meager income has to be distributed among the many deficit-ridden mining centers. This situation has become untenable."

The few remaining Comibol centers are: Telamayu, Animas, Empresa Metalurgica Oruro, Machacamarca, San Jose, Almacen Oruro, Planta Industrial Pulacayo. These are perhaps the mining centers to which Perez alluded.

Only maintenance work is being carried out in most of these mining districts. Limited mining activities are being implemented in some of them. There are 11 other mines, most of which employed less than five workers, that have been closed down. Some of them have been reorganized as cooperatives.

Perez announced that negotiations started on 28 January with union leaders of the San Jose mine to discuss better social benefits for those who are willing to retire voluntarily. [passage omitted]

Brazil

Complaint Filed Against U.S. at GATT

PY1102000293 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 10 Feb 93 Economic Section p 8

[Text] Geneva—Brazil and more than a dozen other countries, including Korea, Japan, and the 12 EC member countries, lodged formal complaints yesterday with the GATT against the U.S. Government for its decision to impose antidumping and antisubsidy surtaxes on steel products that are introduced into the U.S. market. Delegates from countries affected by the U.S. sanction charged that "as a result of their inability to adjust to the international market, U.S. steel mills sought protectionist measures to avoid competition."

Celso Amorim, the Brazilian ambassador to GATT, noted that the surtaxes provoked pressures for retaliatory actions and ultimately hurt the Brazilian steel industry's privatization process. He said: "The decision adopted by the U.S. Commerce Department was a mistake because it also provoked the reappearance of a wave of protectionism in other production sectors in other countries." He added: "In terms of fair, free trade, this has been an act of violence that is breeding more violence."

U.S. Trade Delegate Andrew Stoler defended the sanctions announced two weeks ago by the U.S. Commerce Department, which established preliminary taxes of up to 109 percent on the estimated $2 billion worth of imported steel. He said: "This measure does not violate GATT rules, and it is a fair way for the U.S. Government to compensate the U.S. steel industry for the losses it is sustaining as a result of unfair international trade practices."

Proposal To Use Angra-3 Equipment as Spares

PY1002153993 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 8 Feb 93 Section 1 p 8

[Article by Edna Dantas]

[Text] The equipment that was to have been used to build the third Brazilian nuclear plant, Angra-3, may be used as spare parts for Angra-2. Some $1.008 billion has already been spent on Angra-3, more than half of which, some $558 million, has gone into financial expenses, including interest.

Using the equipment originally acquired for Angra-3 as spare parts is one of the proposals made to President Itamar Franco by technicians of the Furnas Electric Power Plants, Inc.—the enterprise that builds and operates Brazilian nuclear plants.

President Franco has made it quite clear that he does not want Angra-3 to be completed and asked Furnas to propose alternatives.

Furnas has stated that it wants to complete the third nuclear plant. Luis Manuel Amaral Messias, superintendent of the Furnas Nuclear Construction enterprise, believes that "this decision could be postponed because it is subject to a balanced economy and the need to generate electricity."

Franco intends to leave the final decision on the nuclear plants in the hands of Congress.

The Furnas report will include two other alternatives. The first involves selling the equipment purchased from

the German Siemens enterprise. This would cause diplomatic problems and needs an authorization from the International Atomic Energy Agency. The other alternative would be to adapt the equipment to be used in gas-fueled plants. This alternative would use only a small proportion of the equipment.

Itamar is inclined to authorize the continuation of the Angra-2 project because it is 65.18 percent complete.

Furnas' main desire to convince Itamar to continue with Angra-2 is that the enterprise has already obtained a $850 million loan from the German Government to complete this plant. Luiz Pinguelli Rosa, 50, one of the people consulted by Itamar, told FOLHA: "This is not an easy decision. Just image if a nuclear accident takes place one day. The president would, of course, be fully responsible."

Itamar asked the scientist, who coordinates the Science and Culture Forum at the Rio de Janeiro Federal University, an objective question. He wanted to know if Pinguelli Rosa was in favor of completing Angra-2. Pinguelli said: "I did not give him a definite answer, I only pointed out the pros and cons."

Pinguelli Rosa, one of the most famous scientists in Brazil, told the president that, before deciding, he should listen to the people who live in Angra dos Reis, the district where Angra-1 is built and where Angra-2 is being built.

Pinguelli Rosa said that last week President Itamar Franco phoned Angra dos Reis Mayor Luis Sergio Nobrega de Oliveira, of the PT [Workers Party]. The newly elected mayor said he was in favor of completing the nuclear plant because a lot of money has already been spent in this project and it is a source of employment.

* Record Trade Surplus Discussed

93SM0135A Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 27 Jan 93 pp 1, 3

[Report by Brasilia correspondent Maria Clara R.M. do Prado]

[Text] Brazil had a surplus of $1.332 billion in its trade balance this past December—exports totalled $3.509 billion compared with imports of $2.177 billion—and that brought the country an accrued trade surplus of $15.665 billion for 1992.

Exports broke their historic record, totalling $36.207 billion. "We obtained $21.659 billion from the sale of manufactured goods, the highest figure ever, and 12.88 percent above the second highest figure, achieved in 1988," said Minister of Industry, Commerce, and Tourism Jose Eduardo de Andrade Vieira.

Despite the reduction in import duties, fewer foreign products entered Brazil this past year than in 1991. In value terms, imports in 1992 were $20.542 billion, down 2.37 percent from the previous year, due mainly to the decline in petroleum prices.

Minister Andrade Vieira urged Brazilian businessmen to take a more aggressive approach in exporting their products, and estimated that Brazil could export $42 billion worth this year while importing between $25 billion and $26 billion.

The Argentine market played a significant role, taking $3.069 billion in 1992, of which 53.88 percent was automobiles. Since in 1991 exports to Argentina had totalled $1.476 billion, this means the growth rate exceeded 100 percent.

Minister Andrade Vieira does not think this feat can be repeated this year. "On the contrary," he said, "we might even see a drop in sales to Argentina, given last year's tremendous expansion." He thinks a 20 to 30 percent increase in sales to Asian nations is more feasible. Japan is interested in buying more fruit and orange juice from Brazil, while Singapore wants to purchase manufactured goods. Furthermore, according to the minister of industry, commerce, and tourism, there is widespread interest in Brazilian meat on the part of the Asian countries.

Questioned as to the effects that the U.S. retaliation against Brazilian steel (see pages 3 and 12) might have on export figures for this year, Minister Andrade Vieira was objective: "We need to export more cars to the United States, because that brings in a lot more profit than exporting sheets of steel. In terms of quality, I think we are in a position to compete, since we have the comparative advantages of cheaper labor, cheaper steel, and cheaper electricity," said Andrade Vieira, who is already having this kind of discussion with representatives of the auto industry.

Credit

The administration should help exporters by using instruments for interest rate equalization already available under the Export Financing Program (Proex), and by streamlining the use of the money in the Merchant Marine Fund (FMM). It is also the minister's intent to increase Brazil's participation in international trade fairs, working with the Ministry of Foreign Relations, but he stressed that the major effort must come from Brazilian businessmen themselves.

Last year saw an 8.28 percent decline in exports of iron ore, and another drop in exchange earnings from sales of coffee beans, but other items ensured the 15 percent expansion observed in total exports for 1992 as compared with the previous year. Here are some of the highlights:

- Transportation Goods: Sales of these products amounted to $3.455 billion, the highest level ever. Exports of passenger cars brought the country earnings of $762 million, a 124.78 percent increase over 1991.

- Meat: Exports rose by 44.84 percent. Sales of meat "in its natural state" to Germany grew by 107.72 percent, making that country the main consumer of the Brazilian product. The United States also raised its purchases of that product from Brazil. Because of improved quality, frozen chicken is entering the Japanese market. In the past three years, sales of chicken have risen by 40 percent, from $325 million in 1990 to $455 million in 1992.
- Soybean complex: Stable world prices caused the performance in terms of volume to make its mark internationally in 1992. Exports of soybeans rose by 85 percent, from 2.020 million to 3.740 million tons in 1992. Meanwhile, soybean meal sales grew by 13.52 percent, from 7.488 million to 8.5 million tons.
- Textiles: Sales climbed by 21.9 percent last year. Exports went primarily to the United States (25.4 percent), Argentina (10.54 percent), and Germany (10.2 percent).
- Footwear: Exports of shoes broke a record in 1992, yielding earnings of $1,473 billion, 18.3 percent above the figure for the previous year.
- Paper and cellulose: Sales increased by 40,652 tons, generating an increase of 48.19 percent in export earnings.
- Machinery, mechanical instruments, electronics: As a group, these product lines account for 10 percent of Brazilian exports and their sales in 1992 rose by 16 percent. Prominent were pumps and compressors, computers and accessories, earth-moving equipment, refrigerators and freezers, as well as motors and generators.

* 1992 Trade Balance Figures Detailed

93SM0135B Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 27 Jan 93 p 3

[Article by Sao Paulo correspondent Maria Christina Carvalho]

[Text] The results of Brazil's trade balance in 1992—despite record exports and good sales figures for manufactured goods—are modest in comparison with gross domestic product (GDP) and the flow of international trade.

Brazil's total trade with other countries in 1992—$56.749 billion, the sum of $36.2 billion in exports and $20.5 billion in imports—is equivalent to 13 percent of GDP, but less than the average 15 percent recorded by the ALADI [Latin American Integration Association] nations, reported Roberto Fonseca, president of Silex Trading. In Japan, exports alone account for 17.5 percent of GDP; in Korea, more than 20 percent, contrasted with 8.5 percent in Brazil. "Brazil is still considered as rather closed to international trade, and that situation needs to be reversed in order to make our products better and more competitive, and also so this country can take part in the globalization of the economy," Fonseca said.

Brazil: Trade Balance In US$ Millions FOB

	Exports		Imports		Balance	
Period	1992	Change (%)	1992	Change (%)	1992	(%)
January	2,570	-12.26	1,662	2.47	908	-30.53
February	2,390	5.29	1,529	22.81	861	-16.00
Jan/Feb	4,960	-4.60	3,191	11.30	1,769	-24.14
March	2,900	11.03	1,463	0.00	1,437	25.07
Jan/Mar	7,860	0.63	4,654	7.48	3,206	-7.90
April	2,744	-9.26	1,504	-7.10	1,240	-11.74
Jan/Apr	10,604	-2.13	6,158	3.51	4,446	-9.01
May	2,995	2.89	1,565	-0.76	1,430	7.20
Jan/May	13,599	-1.07	7,723	2.62	5,876	-5.53
June	2,974	5.80	1,656	-9.90	1,318	35.46
Jan/Jun	16,573	0.10	9,379	0.16	7,194	0.01
July	3,464	35.26	1,931	7.94	1,533	98.58
Jan/Jul	20,037	4.81	11,310	1.41	8,727	9.57
August	3,036	8.24	1,666	-22.62	1,370	110.12
Jan/Aug	23,073	5.25	12,976	-2.48	10,097	17.18
September	3,035	46.62	1,630	-2.51	1,405	253.02
Jan/Sept	26,108	8.82	14,606	-2.48	11,502	27.59
October	3,274	23.31	1,975	-12.14	1,299	219.16
Jan/Oct	29,382	10.26	16,581	-3.74	12,801	35.86
November	3,316	34.91	1,784	-11.07	1,532	238.94
Jan/Nov	32,698	12.34	18,365	-4.51	14,333	45.16

Brazil: Trade Balance In US$ Millions FOB (Continued)

	Exports		Imports		Balance	
Period	1992	Change (%)	1992	Change (%)	1992	(%)
December	3,509	39.58	2,177	20.34	1,332	88.94
Jan/Dec	36,207	14.51	20,542	-2.37	15,665	48.08

Source: Ministry of Industry and Commerce

Economist Paulo Iokota said that Brazil accounts for about 1 percent of world trade, estimated at $3.7 trillion. Iokota sees no reason for Brazil to celebrate its repeated trade surpluses, saying: "If we are exporting more than we import, it is because we are transferring savings overseas, financing the other countries. Furthermore, trade and services surpluses are inflationary."

Fonseca believes exports would have been about 10 percent higher had it not been for the decline in prices of certain products, such as aluminum, zinc, coffee, pig iron, cacao, and sugar.

Iokota criticized the quality of Brazilian imports. "We are importing cars, but very little of the machinery we need in order to improve quality and competitiveness."

Brazilian Exports By Economic Bloc In US$ Millions FOB

		January/December	
Breakdown By Bloc	1992	Share (%)*	% Change From 1991
Grand Total	36,207,076,154	100.00	14.51
ALADI	7,627,714,500	21.07	54.45
CACM	207,340,938	0.57	77.89
Other Latin American	138,592,574	0.38	-1.60
CARICOM	87,915,082	0.24	7.07
Canada	402,244,499	1.11	-13.35
United States, incl. Puerto Rico	7,120,484,186	19.67	11.93
Other Americas	144,208,347	0.40	72.39
Eastern Europe	374,900,993	1.04	1.82
EEC	10,729,758,273	29.63	8.94
EFTA	432,430,483	1.19	-18.78
Other Western Europe	250,337,205	0.69	1.47
Asia (excludes Middle East)	5,622,884,704	15.53	-1.13
Middle East	1,295,542,747	3.58	15.16
Africa	1,139,788,388	3.15	10.13
Oceania	238,189,621	0.66	-3.17
Ship and aircraft supplies	276,377,602	0.76	-18.44
Undeclared	118,366,012	0.33	

Source: Ministry of Industry and Commerce

(*)Share of total exports

* Digicon Manufactures Solar Panels for SCD-2

93SM0135D Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 27 Jan 93 p 12

[Article by Porto Alegre correspondent Lilian Bem David]

[Text] On 27 February, Digicon S.A., of Gravatai, Rio Grande do Sul State, will deliver the eight solar panels that will generate all the energy used by the equipment on board the second Brazilian data collection satellite, known as SCD-2 and to be launched this December from Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida, by the National Institute of Space Research (INPE). The panels for the first satellite, to be launched in February, were imported ready-made from the German firm Messerschmitt Bolkow GmbH (MBB).

Digicon invested $500,000 of its own funds in the project and will receive $370,000 from INPE by the time the panels are delivered, said the company's special projects manager, Jose Carlos Araujo. "Digicon is gaining a permanent infrastructure that will be used to make other solar panels," Araujo said. "For satellites similar to the SCD-2, the cost of making the panels will drop by 30 percent."

Each measuring 760 mm tall by 400 mm wide, the eight panels form an octahedron that will convert sunlight to electrical energy. It is the foundation for 1,016 silicon cells (127 per panel) whose job it is to capture the sun's

rays. The layout can generate 70 watts an hour, enough to power the radio telemetry system and other equipment housed in the satellite.

Sunlight

Light is captured during the approximately 50 minutes, out of the 100 minutes that it takes the SCD-2 to complete one trip around the earth in an orbit 700 km away from the planet, when the sun is not hidden. The charged batteries supply the rest. The satellite will be assigned to make sweeps of Brazil's entire territory, collecting environmental data such as rainfall, air and water temperatures, atmospheric pressure, and the tides. The data, scattered on platforms at various points in Brazil, will be transmitted to the central station in Cuiaba (Mato Grosso State).

"The payload of these first satellites is not as important as our observation of their interaction with the earth. Brazilians will be able to learn to correct the movements of one of their own vehicles in space," Araujo noted. To Digicon, which ranks eighth in Brazil in industrial automation according to the magazine BALANCO ANUAL, and started the solar panels project in 1988 after going through a rigorous INPE selection process, this effort meant inclusion in a select group of fewer than 20 companies worldwide that make solar generators for use in space.

Complex Project

The silicon cells were imported from the U.S. firm Spectrolab. Araujo explained that these are extremely delicate components, 2.5 cm. wide, 6 cm. long, and only 0.2 mm thick. "We had to glue glass over each cell, the same size and thickness, to protect them from micrometeorites," he said. The glass cannot be at all opaque, otherwise there would be a loss of ability to capture light, and the resin in the adhesive must not form bubbles that would swell and explode the panels once they leave the earth's atmosphere. Digicon decided to import the resin from another U.S. firm, Dow Corning.

"The cells, doped with boron, were glued and connected in series to form the modules that permit conversion of light into electric current," Araujo explained. The cells contain filaments of silver, five microns thick, that form the energy collector tube. The cells are welded to the panel with silver connectors, 12 microns thick. The project required perfecting of more than 40 processes and the manufacture of a prototype before the final panels could be made. Testing was done at INPE's Tests and Integration Laboratory in Sao Jose dos Campos, Sao Paulo State, with the assistance of MBB, the firm that made the panels for the first satellite.

Digicon plans to move deliberately in entering this new market that Araujo terms very promising. "Space projects require the establishment of mutual trust among companies and governments so that the technology is not lost," he said.

Last year, Digicon had sales of $7.6 million from products such as digital position indicators, graphic peripherals, programmable controllers, and traffic control devices.

[Box p 6, text by Brasilia correspondent Luiza Pastor]

New Launch Date

The launch of the SCD-1 data collection satellite has once again been postponed, this time because of a defect found by the U.S. firm responsible for the operation, Orbital Science Corporation (OSC), in the computer on board the Pegasus rocket. The new date likely to be scheduled by the company for the SCD-1's entry into orbit will be between 5 and 15 February, when the window that enables the vehicle to enter the right orbit will be open again.

This is the fourth postponement of the launch of the SCD-1 since OSC was contracted by the Brazilian Government. Initially scheduled for the end of last year, the operation had been officially confirmed for 7 January and then rescheduled for the 9th, because poor weather in the area had prevented the B-52 aircraft that takes off with the Pegasus under its wings from arriving at Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

Colombia

Interpol To Distribute Leaflets on 'Most Wanted'

PA1102044993 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] For the first time, Colombian authorities are talking about the arrival of foreign bounty hunters. They have already established how the most famous bounty hunters operate and where they come from.

Guerrilla leaders such as Father Manuel Perez and Manuel Marulanda Velez, aka Tirofijo, have become part of the list of the most wanted men in the world. The list also includes Pablo Escobar.

International Criminal Police Organization [Interpol] personnel in Colombia will produce a leaflet that will include the subversives' photographs, fingerprints, personal data, and physical features. It will also include the amount of the reward.

Leaflets will be distributed in the 169 countries in which Interpol operates. They will be translated into English, French, and Arabic.

The immigration departments of each country will be warned. The leaflets will be posted in international airports and places of public interest.

This Interpol measure also pertains to Pablo Escobar. The chief of the Medellin Cartel will be included in the group of the 12 most dangerous criminals in the world.

Escobar's photograph will be next to that of the famous terrorist known as The Jackal, but it will have an

additional piece of information: The amount of the reward for his head, which is $5 million.

Even though they are considered good measures, the State's security organizations are worried about the possible entry of foreign bounty hunters into Colombia, especially from the UK and Israel.

Bounty hunters usually work in groups of four. They are not easily detected because in most cases, they enter the country without weapons. Before choosing the place from which they will operate, they contact persons who are in charge of gathering the necessary information and buying weapons for them.

The Administrative Department of Security is studying the measures that could be adopted to stop the entry of these dangerous persons into Colombia.

Former Aides Say Escobar Gaviria 'Cornered'

PA1002233693 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 4 Feb 93 p14a

[Text] Pablo Escobar Gaviria feels cornered. He has lost most of his trusted aides, and the authorities are closing in on him.

This is the description given by five Escobar aides who surrendered to the Prosecutor General's Office and are now participating in the Victims and Witness Protection Program.

The men admitted Escobar Gaviria ordered the execution of the Moncada and Galeano brothers and 15 Medellin Cartel accountants from Envigado's La Catedral Prison. These and other revelations are contained in an interview granted to SEMANA magazine.

The informers, whose names were not disclosed, professed admiration for Escobar and regretted that life had separated them from him. "We deeply regret having to go over to the other side," they added.

When asked about the announcement Escobar had made on the creation of the Rebel Antioquia guerrilla group, the informers said Escobar is trying to give the impression that he has plenty of supporters, when actually, he is alone.

"What support Escobar has consists of a large number of vicious young men who see this as an opportunity to make lots of money."

The informers said Escobar participated in a roadblock on Las Palmas road last December. "Minutes before the work began, the boss appeared in a red jeep with two men. The jeep was parked approximately 50 meters away. It stayed there for at least 90 minutes. Afterwards, the boss got out and greeted his men. Before departing, Escobar said: "Congratulations to all of you. I feel proud of you. People like you make continuing this struggle worthwhile."

Coastal Counterinsurgency Battalion Created

PA1002233593 Santa Fe de Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish 4 Feb 93 p 13A

[Report by Eduardo Higgins Arteta]

[Text] Barranquilla—Reality is beginning to look a lot more like the fascinating imaginary world of movies and television.

This time, copying the heroic commandos of the television series "China Beach" and "Tour of Duty," more than 500 men have been trained to form the new Los Arhuacos Counterinsurgency Battalion of the 2d Army Brigade. This unit has been formed to neutralize the actions of guerrillas in all departments of northern Colombia.

Little difference exits between the Hollywood heroes of fiction and the "flesh and bones" coastal unit soldiers. The movie characters are inspired by the troops in Vietnam, who fought against the expansion of communism during the cold war. Our counterinsurgency forces use the same slogan to confront the rebel groups Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, National Army of Liberation, and the maoist Popular Liberation Army dissident faction. These groups maintain a worrisome presence along the coast.

Countless similarities exist, even in the settings where the action takes place. Hollywood has recreated the madness of war in the green jungles of the Orient, while Los Arhuacos Counterinsurgency Battalion is ready to enter into action in remote and poor municipalities in the southern part of Cesar and Bolivar Departments, the violent El Sinu area in Cordoba Department, and in places with isolated outbreaks of guerrilla activities in Magdalena and Atlantico.

However, not all elements of fiction and reality can be perfectly related. As opposed to the "gringos," who use a considerable number of blond and very good looking actors in their productions, the new battalion on the coast has been formed with less showy "casting" [preceding word in English]. Members of its cast are the more rugged type: 530 professional soldiers. They are reservists who joined the Army voluntarily to strengthen the military in the struggle against terrorist violence.

Several criteria were considered in selecting the personnel, who will launch offensive actions against the guerrillas anywhere along the coast. Their fighting experience and conduct during their time in the Army has been taken into account, as has their single marital status and their having done their mandatory military service. Usually there are no guarantees in such a difficult profession. But the Los Arhuacos soldiers are guaranteed a monthly salary, life insurance of 3 million pesos, some Sunday leave during their training, and some leave periods during the operations.

The government has established a one-year contract for soldiers with the promise that it may be renewed

according to the public order situation in the country and the performance of each soldier.

The 500 men are ready for war. They know very well the tactics of patrols and training. It remains to be seen if, like the movie heroes, they can win the war with the "bad guys."

Car Bomb Explodes in Barrancabermeja, Kills 12

PA1002191493 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1750 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] We have a last minute report on the car bomb that exploded a short while ago in Barrancabermeja. Monica Echeverry is with Daniel Rico, president of Fedepetroleo [not further identified], and has an update on the situation in Barrancabermeja.

[Echeverry] Daniel Rico, president of Fedepetrol and member of USO [Workers Trade Union], is here with us. He has the latest information on the events in Barrancabermeja. What have you learned so far?

[Rico] On 10 February a tanker truck that was stranded at kilometer 11 on the road to the downtown installations, which is used by workers, was taken to a shop near the USO office in Barrancabermeja, where it exploded. According to the police commander in Barrancabermeja, the truck was filled with nearly 50 kg of dynamite.

So far, we understand there have been over 12 deaths and there are close to 50 injured persons.

[Echeverry] Why do you think this attack may be aimed against USO leaders?

[Rico] We are just making an assessment, because there are too many coincidences. One, the truck was stranded on the access road to the downtown installation. Two, the place where the vehicle exploded is near the installations of the USO. Three, the tanker truck in question is filled at the refinery installations and a march of state workers had been scheduled for 10 February.

[Echeverry] Well, thank you very much. This is the last minute report we have on the tragic events in Barrancabermeja.

Ecuador

Official Report on Drop in Banana Exports

PA1002163593 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] Quito—An official report issued on 8 February indicates Ecuador will export 2.4 million tons of bananas in 1993, compared to a little more than 2.5 million tons in 1992.

The document issued by the Agriculture Ministry blamed EC-imposed restrictions for the drop in exports in 1993 and predicted a deterioration of the economy. It pointed out 1992 banana sales dropped by 5 percent compared to those of 1991 and revenues amounted to $615.9 million, 11 percent lower than those of 1991.

The EC measure has provoked a crisis that is threatening to destroy the country's fragile economy because the banana industry, which generates foreign currency and employs 1 million people, represents the second biggest export product after petroleum, the document added.

The same source reported that in 1992 Ecuador sold 878,000 tons of bananas to the EC, which amounts to 35 percent of total banana exports. This figure was 3 percent lower than shipments to that market in 1991. Sales to Germany dropped by 16 percent, to Greece by 84 percent, to the Netherlands by 56 percent, and to Portugal by 49 percent. There were no sales to France and Spain. Sales to Italy grew by 76 percent and to Belgium by 1.2 percent.

The source added it is estimated banana exports in 1993 will be 2.4 million tons although production will increase to 3.5 million tons, compared to 3.4 million tons in 1992. The document indicated that in 1993 the United States, Europe, and Japan will import 2.2 million tons of Ecuadoran bananas, countries of the southern cone of the American continent will import 103,200 tons, and Eastern Europe will import 43,300 tons.

Protests Against Government in Amazon Region

PA1002160893 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Segundo Serrano, the main spokesman of the Ecuadoran Municipalities Association [Asociacion de Municipalidades del Ecuador—AME], covered the incidents at Francisco de Orellana, Coca, in the Amazonic region, which left one person dead, several injured, and destroyed several properties. The violence began when the region's active sectors expressed their discontent because the government does not satisfy their many needs.

[Begin Serrano recording] We first want to express our strongest protest and concern for the situation. We have already issued a public statement and are now backing it by personally presenting our position to the media. We want to protest the violation of our municipal autonomy and installations. The government action was not right. The measure was disproportionate to the Coca residents protest against lack of electricity.

How is it possible that an eastern canton, which supplies almost 60 or 70 percent of the resources for the government's general budget, lacks electricity? The thermal plant was out of order. How does a thermal plant work? It works with oil. Where does the oil come from? It comes from the eastern part of the country.

I, thus, find it incredible that the government reacted with shoot to kill orders to people who were protesting because they are hungry. [end recording]

Paraguay

Estigarribia Announces Suspension of Dialogue

PY1002141293 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 9 Feb 93 p 8

[Text] Interior Minister Hugo Estigarribia said this morning that the proposal for a civilian-military dialogue "has been suspended for the time being" due to the verbal and legal "attacks" made recently by the opposition and some independent groups on some military chiefs. Minister Estigarribia met with reporters following the installation of Enrique Riera as the new secretary general of the Interior Ministry.

Estigarribia said: "We were surprised by a situation that is incompatible with the desire for dialogue proposed by Domingo Laino [Authentic Radical Liberal Party, PLRA, presidential candidate] in representation of other candidates. They shook our hands asking for a civilian-military dialogue while, at the same time, they were attacking some military chiefs." This is how he referred to the legal action taken by the opposition presidential candidates against some members of the Armed Forces for participating in the "Freedom March" on 3 February.

He added: "This situation has made us reconsider the need for dialogue because the opposition and other groups have shown a contradictory position which makes us doubt whether dialogue is really wanted." Estigarribia indicated that due to the latest events "the proposed dialogue will have to wait because those events contradict the spirit of dialogue. For this reason the dialogue is suspended."

Asked if Domingo Laino will continue with the negotiations for the civilian-military dialogue, Estigarribia said: "Not for the time being. If there is a desire for a civilian-military dialogue it should be expressed in all political and public acts by those asking for it."

He added: "We will wait until it becomes clear that the desire for dialogue is peaceful and not warlike."

Laino, representing several opposition and independent presidential candidates, delivered to Minister Estigarribia a proposed agenda for consideration by President Andres Rodriguez.

Argana Submits Proposals To Overcome Crisis

PY1002155693 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 10 Feb 93 p 2

[Text] The document that was allegedly presented by the Argana-Ybanez presidential ticket to the mediation committee created to overcome the Colorado Party crisis basically agrees to avoid legal measures against the military commanders linked to "historic events" that occur before 15 August 1993. The document also outlines the distribution of posts in the various ministries and public, decentralized, and binational institutions. The points included in the document are all subject to the victory of the Argana-Ybanez slate in the pre-presidential elections.

Here is a partial transcription of the document. It contains eight points in which the Argana-Ybanez ticket establishes its proposal to overcome the Colorado Party conflict.

"I. The candidate elected in the Colorado Party primaries will respect the autonomy of the Armed Forces, which are empowered to elect and propose military candidates who will be promoted, transferred, or retired in compliance with the Constitution and military regulations. The candidate for president of the Republic, in his capacity as commander in chief, will ratify requests made by the institutions.

"II. The candidate will not promote any kind of judgment (or trial) against acting or retired military men for historical events that occur before 15 August 1993. It is therefore understood that any political or socio-economic event that took place prior to this date will be considered closed.

"III. The Colorado Party will directly participate in the government through the Ministry without Portfolio that will be headed by the Colorado Party president or by the person nominated by the Colorado Party Executive Board.

"IV. The results of the election to nominate the candidates for president and vice president, which were temporaryly proclaimed by the Party Electoral Board, are hereby accepted: Ticket No. 4 (Argana- Ybanez), 50.25 percent; Ticket No. 2 (Wasmosy-Seifart), 43.74 percent; Ticket No. 3 (Diaz de Vivar-Frutos), 5.84 percent; Ticket No. 5 (Fretes Davalos-Acosta), 0.17 percent. Consequently, Argana and Ybanez are hereby declared the Colorado Party candidates in keeping with the above-mentioned percentages. In order to make feasible the proclamation of these candidates by the Party Executive Board, all the signatories of this agreement (the commander in chief, the Colorado Party president, and the members of the four movements who participated in the elections) will commit themselves to withdraw their rejections and requests for inhibition of all Party Electoral Board members who did not resign.

"V. The various movements will submit to candidate Luis Maria Argana names to fill the posts of ministers and directors of public, decentralized, and binational institutions, who will be replaced if the new government deems it necessary.

"VI. The candidate promises not to include in his government cadres politicians whom the public and the Colorado Party repudiate or reject for their behavior before the 2-3 February coup d'etat.

"VII. The signatories of this agreement commit themselves to provide active, moral, economic, and political

support to Luis Maria Argana's electoral campaign in view of the 9 May 1993 presidential elections.

"VIII. The representatives of all movements (Wasmosy-Seifart, Diaz de Vivar-Frutos, Fretes Davalos-Acosta) commit themselves to give up their total or partial actions and other legal mechanisms intended to invalidate the 27 December 1992 elections, thus accepting the provisional results which were already published by all mass media confirming the percentages established in Point IV of this agreement and reject the official results released by the Party Electoral Board."

Denies Authorship Document

PY1002194393 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] The [Luis Maria] Argana-[Juan Bautista] Ybanez ticket [in the Colorado Party's internal elections] is believed to have drawn up a document to submit to the ANR [National Republican Association-Colorado Party] mediation committee in which it establishes several points presumably subject to the acknowledgement of Ticket No. 4 [Argana-Ybanez].

The document was published today in one of the morning newspapers. Asked about this document, Diogenes Martinez, the trustee of the Argana-Ybanez ticket, flatly denied representatives of his ticket had drafted said document.

[Begin recording] [Martinez] The document is nothing to do with our movement. If it exists, it is a simple draft without even the initials of anyone on it, so it cannot be considered a document. They are proposals that do not belong to our movement.

[Unidentified reporter] It has always been said that the main obstacle to accepting the victory of your movement is that the military does not agree. There were even rumors circulating that they are afraid of this movement, and now there is talk of immunity for the military men who have committed irregularities before August 1993. Could this be?

[Martinez] The document is not ours. We have not considered that point at any time within the movement. The movement has never drafted, nor has it studied, a single point that could be considered a negotiation.

[Second unidentified reporter] Did you not submit any type of concrete proposal for a possible agreement to the mediation committee?

[Martinez] No. The movement went to listen to the mediators, who did not make any proposal. It was then agreed to hold another meeting, which I believe will be within the next few days. [end recording]

Disqualifies Mediation Committee

PY1002195793 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 10 Feb 93 p 3

[Text] "[Luis Maria] Argana's supporters" no longer believe in a political solution to the ANR [National Republican Association—Colorado Party] crisis through the mediation committee created by President Rodriguez. Less than one hour after a meeting at the residence of [former Education Minister] Dionisio Gonzalez Torres on 9 February, Argana disqualified the committee. This position frustrated the hopes of most progovernment political leaders to solve the problems within the Colorado Party.

Argana described the mediation committee as "a piece of candy" that his political enemies wanted to offer him. During a meeting at Colorado Party Precinct No. 18, Argana said: "Now they want to offer us an alleged mediation committee as if it were a piece of candy to find solutions between four walls, but these solutions proposed by the leadership betray the popular will." Argana also stated: "We will accept legal procedures as the only way to find solutions."

"Argana's supporters" yesterday practically set aside the matter of the mediation committee, and the political leaders will concentrate instead on organizing the 11 February rally. Argana's running mate, Juan Bautista Ybanez, said he was not very optimistic about the negotiations, although he did not rule out the possibility of finding a solution through the mediation committee.

Sources among "Argana's supporters" yesterday released two reports on the document containing the basis for a political solution to the Colorado Party crisis. A source said the document submitted to the mediation committee during the meeting in Gonzalez Torres' residence was drafted at Argana's house on 8 February.

Another source said the document was drafted several weeks ago, and the points were proposed by "[Juan Carlos] Wasmosy's supporters." He added that it was nothing but a trick by Wasmosy's supporters to initiate negotiations and request Ybanez's dismissal. This source, however, said the proposals are valid and may lead to the solution of the Colorado Party crisis.

Despite their efforts, ABC COLOR reporters could not contact Argana yesterday to talk about the document's contents and his position on disqualifying the negotiating group that included Rodriguez.

Differences Among Colorado Factions Outlined

PY1002194693 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 10 Feb 93 p 2

[Text] The positions of the different factions of the National Republican Association [Colorado Party] are very clear. The most notable are those led by Juan Carlos Wasmosy and Luis Maria Argana.

Meetings are now being held in different political fields seeking to reduce these differences, which can be summarized in the following manner:

A) Presidential Ticket No. 2, headed by Juan Carlos Wasmosy and Angel Roberto Seifart, wants the 27 December 1992 elections declared null, the resignation of all pre-candidates for president and vice president of the Republic, and a new call for elections with new candidates.

B) Ticket No. 4, headed by Luis Maria Argana and Juan Bautista Ybanez, wants respect for the National Constitution, the electoral laws, and the sovereignty of the Colorado Party members; the acceptance of the 27 December elections results, and negotiation over the sharing of power with the other internal movements of the Colorado Party.

C) Ticket No. 3, headed by Gustavo Diaz de Vivar and Julio Cesar Frutos, also seeks respect for the Constitution and all other laws; respect for the electoral schedule and the date for the assumption of power by the new party authorities. The Diaz de Vivar-Frutos ticket does not rule out the possibility of reaching a ticket of consensus on the basis of the best figures of the Colorado Party.

These are the points to be solved by the negotiating committee organized by the president of the Republic to overcome the Colorado Party crisis. To achieve this, the committee must obtain the resignation of the Colorado Party internal movements.

PLRA To Participate Alone in Elections

PY1002193893 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 9 Feb 93 p 6

[Text] The Authentic Radical Liberal Party [PLRA] will participate in the 9 May national elections without electoral allies as a consequence of the recent desertion by the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], the last party of the group of four that signed the so-called "Letter of Intention for Electoral Alliance" signed on Friday, 19 June 1992, at the National Sports Council (CND) building.

On that date the PLRA, the PDC, the independent movements Asuncion for All (APT) and Paraguay for All (PPT) all signed the letter. The adherence of the "Rafael Franco Movement" (MRF) faction of the PRF [Revolutionary Febrerista Party] was expected shortly afterwards.

However, the split of the "26 May" Independent Democratic Movement (MID-26) from the APT, which decided to support the presidential candidacy of Engineer Ricardo Canese, and the adherence of the PPT to said project produced a quick favorable reaction within the MRF faction. Now, with this new split of the PDC, the PLRA has no more allies.

In principle, this electoral alliance was based on the PLRA promise to begin negotiations toward an integration of the lists of candidates for elective national and departmental posts with figures taken from among its allies (the PDC, APT, PPT, and MRF). However, this possibility has been fading day by day without a chance of integration.

It must be recognized, as we said from the very beginning, that it is impossible to accomplish integration because of a categorical impediment of the power entrusted to the PLRA Board by the last PLRA convention, which forbids the admission in party lists of candidates from other parties.

Thus, the so-called "Social Democratic Coalition" [Concertacion Democratica Social], which supports Canese's candidacy, has joined the PDC, MID-26, PPT, MRF, the National Peasant Coordinating Board (CCN) [Coordinadora Campesina Nacional], the National Coordinating Board of Struggle for Land and Home (CNLTV) [Coordinadora Nacional de Lucha por la Tierra y la Vivienda], the Paraguayan Peasant Movement (MCP), and the Paraguayan Communist Party (PCP). Moreover, the United Workers Trade Union Federation (CUT) has decided to also support Canese and will submit this decision for the consideration of its congress, scheduled for 13 and 14 February.

U.S. Ambassador's Alleged 'Meddling' Criticized

PY1102001793 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 10 Feb 93 p 4

[Article by Rogelio Lopez]

[Text] To mention the United States' influence over Paraguay is to say nothing new. More than influence, it is meddling and making suggestions on any issue that is the focus.

In addition to his weekly visit with President Andres Rodriguez, Jon "I'm glad to be among you" [quoted phrase in Guarani] Glassman is now meeting with politicians, because he is definitely interested in helping to solve the Colorado Party crisis. The "beloved" Jon constantly holds meetings with the military, "whom we always assist," as the ambassador points out.

Are we really so important as to receive from the U.S. Government such an active and curious ambassador, so zealous in his duties, and, we can even say, "likely" to stand by our side, to support us, and to—in addition—meddle in all our domestic affairs? Or could it be that we cannot live without the Yankee influence and without resorting to him under any excuse.

Everyone seems to say: "Message for Mr. Glassman" and, as a result, the man materializes at the site where the events are taking place to learn about what is occurring and report them to his government. This is the

only justification for several of the U.S. diplomat's attitudes and for his opinions on Paraguayan domestic issues.

Why should Glassman be meeting Colorado Party members to solve a problem created by Paraguayans, which is related exclusively to Paraguayans, and which can only be solved by Paraguayans? Unless he accepts being appointed a consensus candidate, his attitude cannot be explained otherwise. What does Jon Glassman do at the Government Palace once a week when—according to his own words—he analyzes the national events with President Rodriguez? He never reports on the results of these analyses; he only mentions what has been analyzed. Maybe these analyses will prove positive and show that we are pregnant. Maybe after a few months and after the labor pains of having to put up with the U.S. ambassador, a new country will be born. A new country that will not require so many suggestions and interference by the "monster of the North."

Meanwhile, we will have to continue relying on his advice and accepting his suggestions. After all, most underdeveloped countries such as ours have to put up with this malady. There may be only one Glassman, but there are many U.S. ambassadors. This is the one we currently have, therefore, all we can do is to accept him and say: "Smile, Glassman loves you."

Peru

Jungle Region Strikes Protest End of Benefits

PA1002200993 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] The jungle region halted labor, commercial, and academic activities on 9 February to protest the annulment of tax benefits. This 48-hour strike, called by the Loreto Civic Front, started early on the morning of 9 February with a number of demonstrations on the main streets of Iquitos.

A 24-hour strike was announced in Ucayali and Huanuco Departments on 10 February to demand the annulment of decrees that invalidated tax benefits. For the same purpose, the Tacna Chamber of Commerce is planning a 24-hour strike in coordination with authorities of Ilo and Juliaca on either 11 or 12 February.

Research Radar Installed in Antarctica

PY1002201693 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 29 Jan 93 p A8

[Text] A week after arriving at the Machu Picchu station in Antarctica, the fourth Peruvian expedition of scientists and experts installed the first research radar on the continent.

This news was learned through radio messages sent yesterday by the Peruvian base personnel in Antarctica to the Peruvian Navy Hydrographic Service.

Frigate Captain Hector Soldi Soldi, chief of the Peruvian expedition in Antarctica, reported during a news conference in Lima that the installation of the radar was completed by 26 January, and it is now fully operational.

He said the expedition, which is made up of 15 scientists and experts, managed to work much faster than expected. "Ever since the group was installed in the Machu Picchu base, it has communicated daily with Lima to report on their condition and the state of the radar installation," Soldi said.

Since yesterday, he said, the research radar has been registering the speed of the upper Antarctic atmosphere using a new technique made up of computerized programs developed by Peruvian engineers.

He also reported that the expedition, which is the fourth one carried out by the Navy, was organized with financial support from the National Sciences Foundation Program, which donated $600,000. This foundation is made up of all the member countries of the Antarctic Treaty signed in 1989. Soldi added that they also received logistic support from the Argentine Navy.

The Peruvian expedition sailed from the port of Callao on 12 January in the Argentine ship Almirante Irizar, and it arrived in Antarctica on 20 January. From there they were transported on helicopters from the same ship to Saint George's Island, in the Bransfield Archipelago where the Machu Picchu station is located.

Soldi said the financial and logistical support from the two aforementioned institutions will continue until 1994 because it is part of an assistance program in which the Peruvian counterparts promised to contribute scientists and experts, as well as the technology to operate and control the research radar.

Seizure of Drug Traffickers' Planes Viewed

PY1002200893 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 2 Feb 93 p A10

[Article by Liz Mineo]

[Excerpts] Without the help of radars, Peruvian Air Force (FAP) planes seized 14 drug traffickers' planes during nine months of frequent and expensive operations. With the Andoas and Iquitos radars, however, the FAP seized 12 more drug traffickers' planes in only four months of operations conducted from the ground and at very low cost.

Although the results are almost the same, the advantages of having a radar are evident. At ostensibly lower costs and in a 50 percent shorter period, a radar could do what FAP planes achieved in nine months of surveillance.

A high-ranking FAP officer explained: "A radar installed on the ground uses three gallons of oil to function five hours, while two planes in the air use from 200 to 400 gallons in the same period of time." He added: "Besides,

no matter how well a pilot sees, he cannot replace a radar, which detects any craft with precision." [passage omitted]

During the operations conducted from January to September 1991, the FAP seized 14 planes without the help of radars.

In the first operation, two Peruvian craft were intercepted, but one of them crashed while trying to escape. The other plane was seized together with the 200 kg of cocaine paste it was carrying. This operation was entitled Rain Shower 1 (Chubasco 1) and was conducted from 23 January to 4 February 1991. In the second operation, which lasted 10 days, another Peruvian craft was seized with $376,000, which probably would have been used to purchase drugs.

In operations Rain Shower 3 and 4, five planes —four Peruvian and one Colombian—were seized.

In addition, a total of 48 airplanes were forced to land for having committed infractions such as not having an authorized flight plan, air navigation certificate, etc.

Given the Chubasco operations' positive results, the first combined operation, called Falcon, with the U.S. Air Force was carried out in June 1991 in Andoas. The second operation was carried out a little later. It was called Dragon and its center of operations was in Pucallpa. On this occasion, police captured a small airplane transporting 500 kg of cocaine base. AWAC and Orion airplanes were used in the two operations.

An additional advantage of these combined operations was that they allowed the air forces of Peru and Ecuador to strengthen ties. Officers from the Iquitos and Andoas bases in Peru were exchanged with officers in the Guayaquil and Lago Agrio bases in Ecuador.

The air forces of Colombia, Ecuador, and the United States held a coordination meeting for the first time in September 1991 and they decided to install radars in Andoas and Iquitos, thinking they would be most useful there.

Although the results were not spectacular, in only four months they captured nearly the same amount of narco airplanes as those captured in the nine months of frequent and costly operations.

Since their installation in November 1991 and through April 1992, the Air Force captured 12 airplanes with only smuggled goods because the smart drug traffickers soon found new routes to avoid the radars and the appropriate time to escape from air patrols.

When the radars were withdrawn in April 1992, the FAP again began using combat planes for patrol missions.

Without the aid of radars, from May to December 1992, the FAP intercepted 56 small airplanes for not complying with regulations such as having an authorized flight plan or an air navigation certificate. Five of the total carried smuggled goods.

The few airplanes captured in eight months of operations is owed to the fact that in this uneven war, the drug traffickers seem to be on the offensive.

The drug traffickers reduced the amount of flights during the day to avoid FAP radars and operations.

Also, since they know the limitations of the FAP aircraft in carrying out night patrols, the drug traffickers increased their flight traffic at night.

As wise businessmen, the drug traffickers equipped their airplanes with infrared lights and even radar detectors. Business comes first.

Just like in any other business, variables change according to the market conditions. The flight routes are the variables that change most. Drug traffickers have abandoned most of the airports in the Upper Huallaga region where they used to operate as they pleased after the FAP began to patrol nine landing strips in the area. However, they currently are using nearly 200 clandestine landing strips in the valley, many of which are on the Marginal Highway.

Despite its efforts, the FAP seems to be losing this battle against a better-equipped enemy. Although one lonely radar can tip the balance, it will not be enough to win the battle.

Uruguay

Courts Approve Spanish Extradition Requests

PY0702192693 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1623 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Report by Jorge Figueroa]

[Excerpts] Montevideo, 6 Feb (EFE)—Defense Lawyer Puig has reported to EFE that the Uruguayan courts yesterday approved three requests filed by Spain for the extradition of Spanish citizens who are allegedly members of the Basque Fatherland and Liberty [ETA] terrorist group, and rejected two others.

Puig has confirmed that the Uruguayan Courts have granted, on first instance, the extradition of Maria Rosario Delgado Iriondo, Miguel Ibanez Oteiza, and Jesus Maria Goitia Unzurrunzaga. Delgado and Ibanez are being sought on murder charges, and Goitia on charges of homicide.

Uruguayan Judge Alfredo Gomez Tedeschi rejected the requests for the extradition of Jesus Maria Lariz Iriondo and Pedro Maria Gimenez Lopez. [passage omitted]

Puig and the prosecuting attorney have three working days, beginning 8 February, to appeal the rulings which approved and rejected the various extradition petitions.

Puig added that he had received a note with the rulings "a few hours before." He added that he will "study the matter over the weekend, and will appeal the rulings during the beginning of the week."

The Appellate Court before which the rulings will be appealed has not established a period of time for a decision on the matter, but court spokesmen believe that the courts will not rule on the matter before 60-120 days.

The petitions for the extradition of Luis Maria Lizarralde Izaguirre, Jose Urrutia Pia, and Amaya Arakistain are still being analyzed by Uruguayan courts. Among the ETA members arrested in Uruguay, Lizarralde is charged with the greatest number of crimes: six murder charges, one of them attempted murder, as well as terrorist attacks, bank holdups, car theft, injuries, and illegal association, among other charges. [passage omitted]

Venezuela

Minister Denies Division in Armed Forces

PA1102003793 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Defense Minister General Ivan Dario Jimenez Sanchez has stated the National Armed Forces [FAN] must be left out of the political campaign because this would be detrimental to the corps. The defense minister was referring to statements made a few days ago by Bolivar Governor Andres Velasquez and Zulia Governor Oswaldo Alvarez Paz. Each said they would unite the FAN if they were elected president.

Gen. Jimenez Sanchez was visibly upset by this statement. He said the FAN should be left out of politics. He also said politicians should not involve the FAN in their demagoguery because the FAN are apolitical and this type of statement could be detrimental to the military corps.

[Begin recording] [Jimenez] The FAN are not divided. We need no one to unite us. We proved this on 6 December and in the clashes we have had with guerrilla groups at the border. We also prove this when we fight the prospectors and when there are conflicts like the ones that occurred in Cumana and Barinas. The FAN are present on those occasions and they fulfill their duty as established by the law and military regulations.

Some of our members violated the law, and they are being punished by the authorities. But this does not mean the FAN are divided. We punish all those who are guilty of wrongdoing or who commit a crime. As far as we are concerned, those arrested in connection with the 4 February and 27 November incidents are comrades who committed a crime and must be punished by the courts. We need absolutely no one to come and unite us. We are united. [end recording]

Jimenez Sanchez was also asked about the U.S. advisers who apparently came to Fort Tiuna and carried out an advisory role concerning disinformation campaigns. The defense minister said the FAN have an established procedure concerning psychological warfare. He said it is one thing to have a group of U.S., Canadian, and Central American officers attend a psychological warfare seminar in the country and another to have a specially hired group arrive in the country for a specific task, and this was not the case. The defense minister denied the FAN are involved in disinformation campaigns.

Gen. Jimenez also denied that weapons were stolen from Fort Tiuna. He said the only loss of weapons registered in recent months is that which occurred during the 27 November incident.